the Spartana

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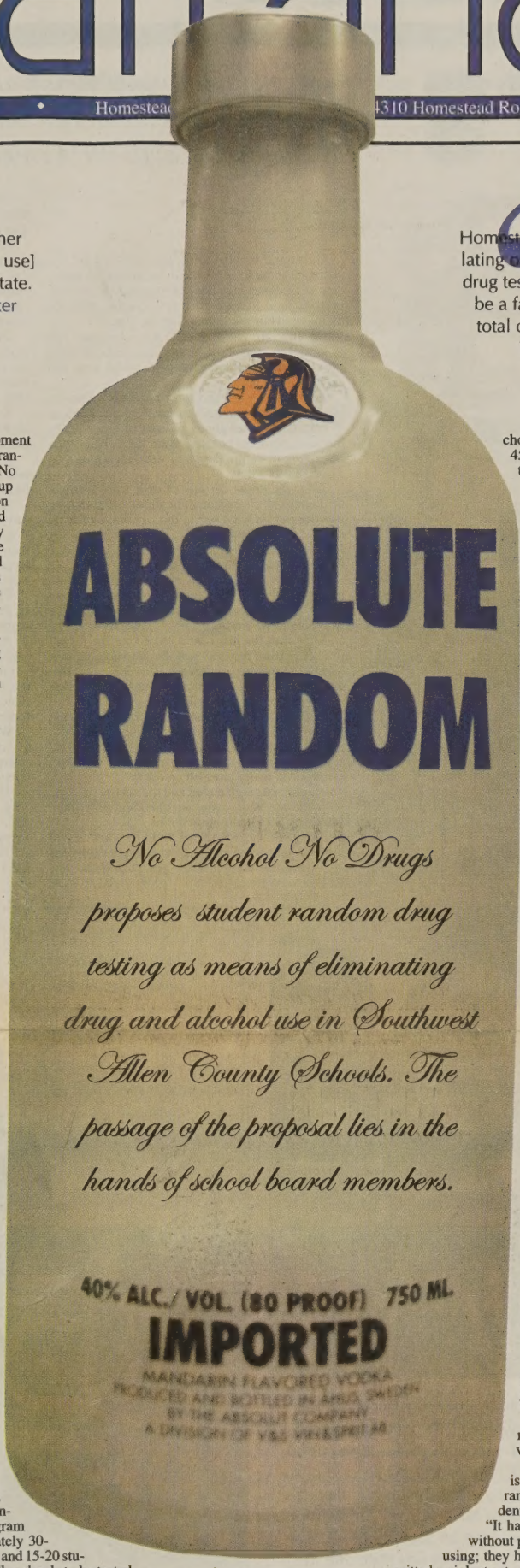
Surplus
The first edition of our entertainment tabloid, *Surplus*. Check it out.


ABSOLUTE
RANDOM
No Alcohol No Drugs proposes student random drug testing as means of eliminating drug and alcohol use in Southwest Allen County Schools. The passage of the proposal lies in the hands of school board members.
40% ALC./ VOL. (80 PROOF) 750 ML
IMPORTED
MANDARIN FLAVORED VODKA

> Our students are at a higher level [for alcohol and drug use] than other schools in the state.
> Anita Gross, social worker

> Homestead High School is violating our privacy by randomly drug testing its students. It will be a failing attempt to have total control over students.
> Viraj Verma (12)

Suhasini Bhargava
Co-Editor in Chief

To continue further development on the passage of its student random drug testing proposal, the No Alcohol No Drugs (NAND) group held informative meetings on September 22 and 23. The third meeting will be held on Monday at 7:00 p.m. at Woodside Middle School. The meetings informed students, parents, and members of the community about the reasons, procedures, and consequences for conducting tests.

One of many programs organized by NAND, random drug testing serves to provide students with a reason to refrain from alcohol and drug usage. Additionally, random drug testing will provide scholarship opportunities for students who remain drug and alcohol free.

A reason for the proposal of the program is a higher (than state and national averages) level of alcohol, tobacco, and drug use among students in the Southwest Allen County Schools (SACS) district.

"Our students are at a higher level [for drug and alcohol use] than other schools in the state," district social worker Anita Gross said during a seminar held in English teacher Gayle Bloom's Advanced American Literature class.

A Supreme Court ruling in 2002 allowed school districts to randomly drug test students involved in extra-curricular activities, co-curricular activities, and student drivers. For this reason, the school district may only include student drivers, and after- school activity participants in the pool. The program will include student volunteers into the pool. By volunteering to participate in the program, students may receive portions of $100,000 set aside for scholarships for students whose test results are negative.

"The Supreme Court has said that because participation in after-school activities and driving to school are privileges and are not necessary for academics, those kids can be tested," Gross said. "There are direct connections between driving and driving under the influence."

If approved, the random drug testing will operate in the following manner: all student drivers, extra-curricular and co-curricular participants, and volunteers will be placed in a pool, and they will be assigned a number. Each week, a computer program will randomly select approximately 30-40 students from the high school, and 15-20 students from each of the two middle schools to be tested.

Students will need to sign a participation agreement that states that they will choose to remain free from drugs and alcohol. The participation agreement will be signed by both student and parent, and is valid for one school year.

"Currently students have to sign an agreement that says they will choose to be drug-free and we are going to keep that agreement," Gross said.

If a student's test result is positive, the consequences are as follows: the lab conducting the test will inform the student assistance coordinator (Gross). The student assistance coordinator informs the parents and sets up a meeting time. During the meeting, parents may appeal the results if a student is on medication that may alter the drug test. On the first offense, students may choose either suspension for 45 days from driving and activity participation, or they may partake in an alternate program. The alternate program includes suspension from activity and/or driving for 10 days, suspension from one game or event, and mandatory participation in a drug treatment program. Second time offenders will receive a suspension for 90 days from activities and driving. A third positive test results in permanent suspension from activity and driving. Students may not be criminally charged for drug use because of positive test results.

"The way it works is the student's social privileges are taken away from 10 days," Gross said. "So for 10 days they may not participate in any activity, drive, attend dances, and things of that nature."

The proposed student random drug testing procedure is free to students and will be of no cost to SACS for the first three years of operation. Statistics show that the random drug testing program will require (over the course of three years) $162,000 for drug testing; $225,000 for employees; $100,000 for scholarships; $6,500 for student programs; $8,500 for pre-implementation education, and $2,500 for post-implementation education. The total budget for the three years is $504,000. The program has received $510,000 from community organizations and businesses, grants from local foundations, and grants from government agencies.

Several students have expressed opinions about the proposed random drug testing. Some students are willing to abide by the random drug testing.

"I could care less if we are tested randomly because I have no reason to worry," Wes Meyers (12) said.

Other students view the random drug testing as a violation of student rights.

"Homestead High School is violating our privacy by randomly drug testing its students," Viraj Verma (12) said. "It has no reason to test students without proof that a student has been using; they have been in a fight or committed a violent act, and the school has justifiable cause. By doing random drug tests, we are wasting schools funds that could be put to better use. Even the police officers that are governed by the law cannot drug test people unless they have committed a crime or have probable cause. So then we must ask why is Homestead's policy any different? It will be a failing attempt to have total control over students."

Prior to execution of student random drug testing, NAND must acquire school board approval, update the student handbook, hire employees, and educate the community about the program.

The school board will vote on whether or not student random drug testing will be implemented. The ultimate decision about when the program will be executed and how funds will be obtained after three years also lies in the hands of the school board members.

see 4A for student response to RDT →

- $162,000 for drug testing
- $225,000 for employees
- $100,000 for scholarships
- $6,500 for student programs
- $11,000 for education

Total cost = $504,000

> I could care less if we are tested randomly because I have no reason to worry.
> Wes Meyers (12)

photo illustration josh zurawski

ISTEP activities improved for juniors and seniors

Upperclassmen job shadowed, visited colleges, or prepared for the SAT

Suhasini Bhargava
Co-Editor in Chief

For a second consecutive year, the guidance department organized opportunities for juniors and seniors to visit colleges and participate in job shadows while the underclassmen spent Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday morning taking the ISTEP+ test.

Prior to ISTEP+ testing in 2003, only sophomores were required by state law to pass the test. However, starting last year, the state implemented a similar test for the freshmen. This addition to the testing procedure forced more classrooms (than in previous years) to be occupied with students taking the ISTEP+ test.

Because classes for juniors and seniors could not be conducted without interfering with ISTEP+ testing, the guidance department allowed juniors and seniors to spend Tuesday morning until the beginning of fifth period visiting a college or shadowing a professional at work. Juniors and seniors had a third option of attending study hall from 7:30 a.m. until 11:24 p.m. on Tuesday morning. In order to take part in the job shadow or the college visits, students were required to turn in permission slips to student services prior to Thursday, September 16.

Numerous upperclassmen took advantage of this opportunity and learned more about potential careers. Many visited local hospitals, businesses, and other schools to shadow doctors, nurses, executives, and teachers.

"I went to Lutheran and walked around with my dad," Pragya Sharma (11) said. "I saw the different types of patients he deals with. A lot of them have mental disabilities."

Other students visited local universities such as Indiana University Purdue University Fort Wayne (IPFW), Butler University, and Taylor University.

"We were able to tour the campus and talk to students about life at Taylor," Meredith Denney (12) said.

Several students spent Tuesday morning in a study hall in the cafeteria studying for upcoming tests and doing homework.

"It [study hall] went by faster than I thought it would," Sreeya Yalamanchali (12) said. "It was not enforced and you could do homework or hang out with friends."

In order to remain at the college-visit or job shadow after 11:24 p.m., parents were required to call into the attendance office and provide a reason for their child's absence for the remainder of the school day. Classes resumed to the afternoon schedule after ISTEP+ testing on Tuesday. Students attended fifth, sixth, and seventh period.

On Wednesday and Thursday, activities such as resume building, SAT prep, career and college searches, weight lifting and aerobics, and study hall were available. To participate in activities except for study hall, students were required to turn in the Form 2 of the permission slip to Student Services. After the ISTEP+ testing was finished, students attended third, fourth, fifth, six, and seventh periods.

Overall, alternatives such as job shadowing and college visits offered to juniors and seniors during ISTEP+ week added variety to the monotony of the typical week of school.

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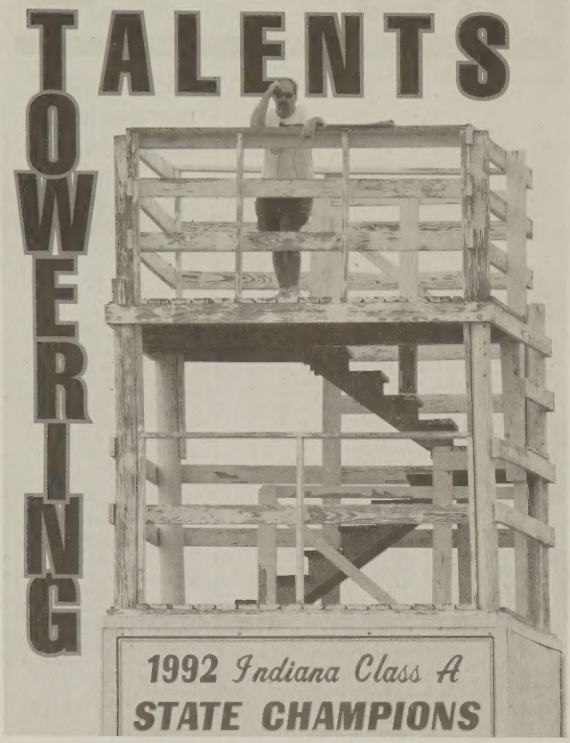


With multiple competitions under its belt, the Spartan Alliance Band continues the competition circuit, looks to state contest at the RCA Dome in Indianapolis

Laura Summers
Writer

Only nine months after their most recent appearance at the RCA Dome in Indianapolis, members of the Spartan Alliance Band returned to their practice field to kick off a new season, with the theme of "Half the Fun is Getting There".

On July 26, 2004, at 8:00 a.m. the band met at school to start three strenuous weeks of band camp. Each day of camp began at 8:00 a.m. and ended at 4:00 p.m.

A typical day of band camp consisted of basics practice, which focused on the basic techniques of marching. After about an hour of those drills, the band members began to learn their drill. At the beginning of camp, the band would learn around 11 or 12 sets a day.

After the entire 59 sets of drill were learned, the band started to clean their show. All marching practice was carried out in the mornings of band camp. When noon arrived, they would usually receive a generous lunch break from directors, Steve Barber and Brad Wadkins.

After the lunch break, music practice would promptly begin. The majority of the afternoon would be sectionals, but for the last hour the whole band would meet for full ensemble.

This year, the band set a record for the fastest time of putting the drill with the music. This task was accomplished in only two weeks and two days. For the final three days of camp, all that was left to do was clean the show.

"Getting the complete show done and doing the first run through with music is my favorite part of band camp," flute player Jen Tharp (11) said. "There's so much energy in that first run; everyone is really pumped up for it."

After band camp ended and the school practice schedule got under way, the band had only three weeks until its first competition.

The band was scheduled to do its show at two football games beforehand, but because of the delay on the installation of the new turf, those performances were canceled.

Although this lack of experience was unusual, they had a dress rehearsal two days before the first competition.

As September 11 came, the band was set to compete at both Wayne and Ben Davis on that day. For this first Saturday, Barber and Wadkins chose to do a double competition. The band obviously had no trouble with this because they received first place at both locations.

They also won caption awards at both, including best percussion, color guard, music, marching, and general effect. At Ben Davis, they received the best drum majors award and the Overall Grand Champion award.

Some members competed for the first time in high school marching band competitions on Saturday, September 11.

"The Saturday competitions are so much fun, they make all the hard work worth it," Ashtyn Bartkowiak (10) said.

On September 18, The Spartan Alliance Band traveled to Concord to compete at the Concord Invitational. The competition here was harder than the previous weekend, because the band went up against more schools, three of which were state finalists.

The competition included bands such as Snider, Penn, Northrop, Lawrence Central, Lawrence North, Lafayette Jefferson, and Lake Central.

At this invitational, the band was more prepared in comparison to the competitions the previous Saturday. They had yet another week of practice under their belt, they had already experienced a competition, and they performed at the football game the night before.

With an overly successful band camp, and a great start in the first three competitions, the Spartan Alliance Band is headed towards yet another successful season.

The band competes on Saturday, September 25 at Avon High School in the morning. Later at night, the group competes with Greenwood High School in Greenwood, Indiana.

The State competition will take place at the RCA Dome in Indianapolis on Saturday, October 23.

photos/zach hetrick

Calendar of Events

September 25 Avon and Greenwood
October 2 District at Northrop
October 9 Homestead Fall Festival and Snider Invitational
October 16 Regionals at Carmel
October 23 State at the RCA Dome

^ Two sophomore flute players stand at attention awaiting instructions during a run through preceding their competition at Concord. The band took second place at Concord. >> A band member plays his clarinet during the Concord competition which took place on September 18. The band looks to grab its first state title in eight years at the RCA Dome on October 23.

Athletic boosters provide vital funding

Hundreds of generous donors provide extra boost for extra-curricular activities

Parent Organizations

-Athletic Booster Club: parents help through annual membership drive

-Music Booster Club: meetings are held on Monday, once a month

-Parent Club: some projects include Senior Breakfast, Academic Awards Night

-ALPHA Parent Group: meetings are held on third Thursday of every month

Austin Hetrick
Writer

Among the hundreds of donors for the booster programs there are companies and individuals of all types; from dry-cleaners, to hardware stores, to everyday parents, all of them help athletic and music extracurricular activities each year by making contributions that are vital to these organizations.

Without the support of the booster programs, several of the athletic and musical organizations currently participating in fall sports would cease to exist, or face major financing problems. Some 600 companies and individuals each year help to make the necessary donations to keep these programs, and thus the activities themselves running.

Last year alone, the Athletic Booster Club brought in approximately $36,000. These funds are dispersed widely across the spectrum of sports and activities. The Music Booster program representatives prefer not to disclose actual funding numbers, but "hundreds of dollars per member" of almost all music activities are funded solely by the donations of the Music Booster Club members.

"The Athletic Booster Program has been running for at least 25 years, longer than I've been here at least," athletic director John Ankenbruck said.

"[This funding] is vital to all athletics," Ankenbruck said. "Besides it, there are only the ticket sales to fund the sports, and that alone is not enough."

> "This funding is vital to all athletics. Besides it, there are only the ticket sales to fund the sports, and that alone is not enough"
> John Ankenbruck

Ticket sales amount to just a small fraction of the funding needed for the equipment, umpires, referees, uniforms, field preparations, maintenance, awards, trophies, certificates, banners, and numerous travel expenses which constantly drain athletic funding. With some 78 percent of parents participating in Athletic Boosters these costs are greatly reduced.

Music activities at the high school and across Southwest Allen County Schools depend on the booster program for much of their funding. Fund-raisers such as the Spring Auto Show are a major component of the efforts of the board members of the Music Booster program. Further fund raisers, such as the green discount cards being sold by the members of music activities are also conducted throughout the year.

President of the Music Boosters board, Cheryl Uhey emphasized the importance of the concession and membership sales to the program.

"What I think that people really should know about Music Boosters is that not only do the funds we raise pay for the bands and choirs, but they also fund the dance teams, the color guards, and also all of the middle school activities," Uhey said.

Music Boosters has been in operation since 1970 and has provided critical funding since then. Both Music and Athletic Boosters currently are in need of help. Joint meetings for both groups are held on the first Monday of each month, and individuals hoping to help are encouraged to attend.

For those interested in helping, the directors of both groups encourage attendance to athletic and music competitions, as well as participation in current fund-raising activities. Athletic Boosters's officials also wish to encourage participation in the Dance Marathon, which is the primary source of funding for that program.

Booster programs are a part of high school for everyone, and without them, musical and athletic activities would be struggling constantly for funding. Students appreciate the contributions of member-companies and parents alike, and hopefully this year's programs will continue to support all of the activities important to students.

Global Briefs

Hurricane Ivan

The third of recent hurricanes to develop in the Caribbean, Hurricane Ivan slammed into the Caiman Islands and Cuba. It is looking to make way towards the United States coastline, near Louisiana.

Sudan

A recent finding by the World Health Organization has found that 10,000 people are dying a month in the refugee camps in the Darfur region in Sudan. Their deaths are due to the fact of the unsanitary conditions that they are living in. Food and water is scarce, and the clusters of refugees sharing the same resources has increased the spread of disease. The refugees were forced to flee their homelands due to the political violence and instability in the region.

September 11, 2001 Remembrance

This date will forever be engraved in history as the date of the World Trade Center tragedy. Over the course of the weekend marking the anniversary of this weekend, vigils were held for the victims. Hundreds gathered outside of the site of the World Trade centers to pay their respects. They all came to spread one message, "The people lost in these attacks will never be forgotten."

September 1, 2004

Another tragic even took place in Beslan, Russia. Terrorist trapped over school children and teachers in a school and held them hostage until Russian forces intervened. Over 200 of the hostages died in the clash, and may were injured.

During the 2004 US Open women's finals, which took place on the 11th, Elena Dementieva, runner-up, wore a black ribbon in memory of the victims. During her speech, Elena requested a moment of silence for those who perished on September 11th, as well as on September 1st. She also spoke about the effects of terrorism in her homeland, Russia, and the United States.

President Putin

On the 12th, Vladimir Putin, President of Russia, has announced plans to strip Russia's 84 districts of power, and cancel the electoral process so that he can appoint officials of his choosing. President Putin has claimed that he is doing this so that his government can more effectively combat terrorism.

New Icecream

Over the ages, kids have taken peanut butter and jelly sandwiches to school. But with the coming years, the new norm may become the new Peanut Butter and Jelly ice cream. Made with Peter Pan peanut butter, the ice cream is due to be out soon.

Miss America

Diedre Downs, Miss Alabama, was crowned Miss America on September 19. Downs ousted Miss Louisiana, Jennifer Dupont, in the final competition based on talent. Fifty-two women, including, for the first time ever, a contestant from the US Virgin Islands, competed for the crown in a two-hour show. "The Bachelor" host Chris Harrison hosted, and American Idol runner-up Clay Aiken sang at the event.

Iraq Uptdate

Turkish officials said today that 10 employees of a US-Turkish company were kidnapped in Iraq Friday. No additional information on the hostages was released. Meanwhile, a US air strike Saturday targeted a fake checkpoint in Falluja where officials said Iraqis were kidnapped and later killed. Also Saturday, a car bomb killed 19 in Kirkuk.

Britney Spears

Pop Singer Britney Spears married her fiance, backup dancer Kevin Federline, in a ceremony. The two tied the knot on Saturday, September 18. This will be Britney's second marriage in 9 month. Her marriage to friend Jason Alexander was annulled 55 hours later.

The Emmys

The Emmys took place on Saturday, September 19 in Los Angeles. Favorite winner included Sarah Jessica Parker for best Comedy Actress for "Sex and the City."

briefs Puja Parikh

Aboite Township to become part of Fort Wayne

Change to impact school and district in both positive and negative ways

Annie Baenen
Writer

Tax is a payment of money to support a government and its services. This payment is what most people equate the annexation of Southwest Allen County to the city of Fort Wayne. The reason is largely because those are what are going to change; the property taxes are going to increase approximately 22% to pay for Aboite Township's privilege of being part of the city of Fort Wayne. Many ask what advantages Southwest Allen County gets for the increase in their property taxes. The areas that government officials point to are increased fire and police protection.

Many citizens agree that they feel safe in their neighborhoods and are adequately taken care when fire strikes. Therefore, the annexation proposal needed core arguments to convince Aboite township residents of the benefits of annexation. The residents of Southwest Allen County fought for years to keep themselves out of the city limits but the time finally came when the city government of Fort Wayne needed some additional financial help and support for all of its programs. Many of students' parents work in the city and many of them enjoy the great facilities that downtown offers. Some of these include Science Central, Fort Wayne Museum of Art, Embassy Theatre, Grand Wayne Center, and the Memorial Coliseum. These organizations are funded by various city governments along with private donations.

Some residents are in favor of the annexation of Aboite Township by the city of Fort Wayne.

"I think Fort Wayne will be a stronger city," social studies teacher Susan Summer said. "I would like to eventually see the county all under one government so that there are not two sets of fire departments, two sets of police, etcetera."

Many students wonder what affect this change will have on them and their families.

"We will have to pay more taxes so we will have less to spend on fun things," Summers said. "Our insurance may go down with the new fire departments being close to our home. We will be able to vote for mayor and city council members, which is good."

One area that students were confused about is reassessment versus annexation. This past year, every home owners' property was reassessed. Many homes increased in value which means that as their value goes up so do their taxes. Annexation means that Aboite township is being incorporated into the city of Ft. Wayne and therefore residents' taxes will increase so the residents of Southwest Allen County have gotten a double increase in our taxes.

These new taxes are coming out in October so no one is quite sure what their taxes will be but many estimate the increases could be between 25 and 30 percent over past years. Taxpayers need to realize that when the city's tax rates go up, it represents only a portion of a homeowner's overall tax bill. Other areas of government, such as schools and townships, have an impact on the total bill.

Recently, Southwest Allen County Schools's school board approved a $62.5 million budget and there are 6,200 students in this school district. This means that the school system is paying $10.000 for each student's education. There will not be a difference on the school after the annexation occurs.

"I see no impact on the school or the township," Summers said. "I used to live north of Fort Wayne and when we were annexed there was no major impact."

News from Student Government

Student Government is currently working on a multitude of projects. The major project, at this point, is Homecoming week (**October 4-8**).

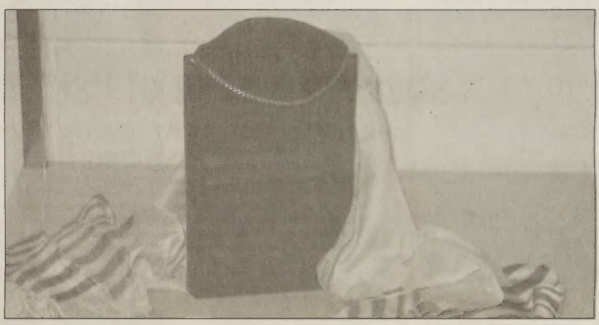
The dress days for Homecoming week are as follows:
Monday: Pajamas
Tuesday: College Apparel
Wednesday: Middle School Apparel
Thursday: Tie Dye
Friday: Blue and Gold

Other projects include:
-Working for the Roanoake Corn Maze: **September 23 - October 31**

-Fall Picnic: **October 7**

-Dirty Duckers Dodgeball: **October 5**

Check out the Student Government display case, in the cafeteria commons, for more information.



A holy prayer book and a yarmulke are pictured. Members of the Jewish faith use a special prayer book for Rosh Hashana. The yarmulke is worn during worship.

Rosh Hashana and Yom Kippur celebrated this September

Students celebrate Jewish holidays

Puja Parikh
Associate News Editor

While many students are thinking about the Christmas holidays that seem far off, there are other students whose holidays have just begun. Rosh Hashanah, which started on Wednesday, September 15, and Yom Kippur, which begins on September 24, are Jewish holidays that are currently being celebrated.

Rosh Hashanah marks the beginning of the Jewish New Year, and opens the Ten Days of Penitence, closing with Yom Kippur. The Jewish believe that Rosh Hashanah is the day on which God created mankind, and so they mark it as the celebration of mankind's birthday. The day after Rosh Hashanah is also special, for it is Rosh Chodesh, the first day of the new year.

Much like Christmas, Rosh Hashanah is when God judges everyone based on his or her actions during the previous year, and then one's future is determined for the following year. The judgement can be changed for at least another ten days, the Ten Days of Penitence. These ten days are very sacred and holy. God waits until Yom Kippur to seal the judgement.

Henry Shine (10), celebrates Rosh Hashanah by having dinner with Jewish friends.

"This day is very symbolic because it is the first day ever that man has walked on the earth," Shine said.

On the eve of Yom Kippur, Shine and his family have a big feast. Then, everybody fasts until sundown the next day.

"This is symbolic because it represents the want of each person for forgiveness," Shine said. "We pray and ask God to help us be better for the coming year."

The next upcoming Jewish holiday is Hanukkah, which takes place in December. Hanukkah is a celebration of the miracle of the lamp that lasted for eight days when it only had oil for one day. When the Jews were rebuilding a temple from invaders, they had only enough oil for a lamp to last one day, but through miracle it lasted eight days. So the Jews had enough time to rebuild the temple. Customs are frying potato pancakes and lighting the menorah.

"My favorite holiday is Passover, which is in April," Shine said. "It celebrates the freedom that Jews obtained in Egypt. This is one of our most important holidays. Even the food we eat during the dinner is very symbolic. Overall, it is a well represented holiday," said Shine.

One of many prominent faiths that students attending this school may have, Judaism shines during September, when two of the most important holidays take place.

The Star of David is pictured above. This symbol is a religious one for Jews.

ISTEP, GQE affect freshmen and sophomores

Alicia Batchelder
Writer

The Indiana Statewide Testing for Education Progress (ISTEP) is a worry for some students. However, it is not the ISTEP itself that students worry about.

The Graduation Qualifying Exam (GQE) is the test administered through the ISTEP. It is offered through the ISTEP. If one passes the ISTEP, he or she will, in effect, pass the GQE. In order to graduate from high school, a student must pass a form of the GQE.

"There are ways to pass the GQE," counselor (who is administering the test) Tom Quigley said.

"One is through the ISTEP. Another is to get a Core 40 diploma with a C average. If the student doesn't pass the ISTEP or get a Core 40 diploma, there is an appeal process available."

All freshmen and sophomores are taking the test. The freshman do not receive the GQE version. They take a version set up specifically to prepare them to be able to take the GQE during their sophomore year. It is an asset to the program, because a student may fail the freshman ISTEP. Once the school finds out, the student can be put into remedial classes. This process helps them to find support and the student may do better on their next attempt.

Like previous years, the instructions were given over TV monitors. Each sophomore saw Quigley giving him or her instructions. Each freshman watched counselor Beverly Wassouf. This process is done so that each student in the building will start and finish the test at the same time and will receive the same directions. It maintains a level of consistency for the students.

Once the test is over, all of the test booklets and answer sheets must be packaged up, and sent to be graded.

"Part of the test goes to California and another part goes to Indianapolis," assistant principal in charge of ISTEP Steve Lake said.

The companies that grade the tests will send them back to the school by January or March. The results are also sent to each student's home.

The ISTEP process is much longer than the four days that it is given to students. The test was administered starting Tuesday, September 21.

Wanted

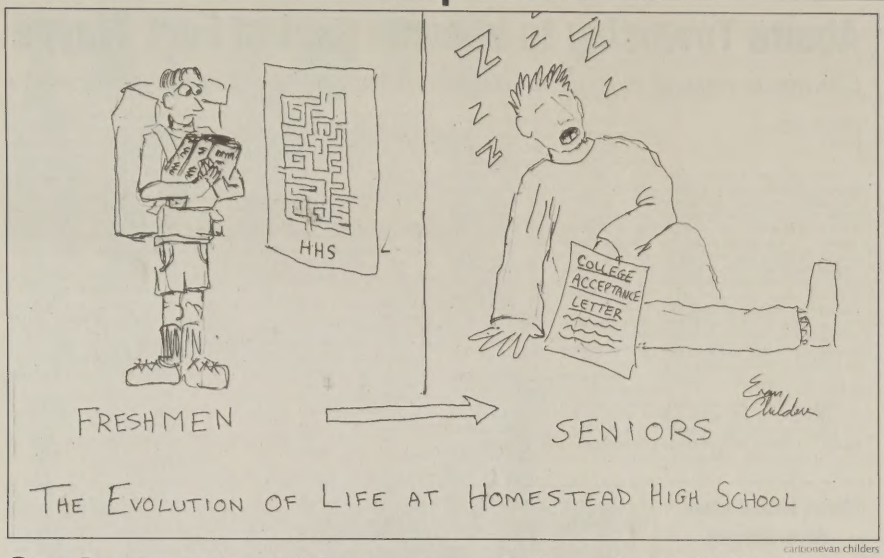
Stay-at-home seeking a mature, reliable baby-sitter/ mother's helper.

Weekday afternoons 3:30-6:30 p.m. Weekend hours available.

Starting Salary: $10.00 per hour

Must have experience and own transportation

Email Liz Philpott at eephilpott@mac.com or call 625-5900 with references



cartoonevan childers

Students should beware of "senioritis" plague

College acceptance letters should not discourage seniors from working, studying

Tyler Keena
Writer

One "disease" that has plagued many high school seniors around the world in their final year of high school, causing students to take easy classes and slack on their school work, has come to be known as "senioritis."

Although senioritis is not really a disease or a medical problem at all, there seems to be no cure for the problem. Many seniors make their schedules very easy, for instance taking several gym classes, so as to limit the amount of work that has to be done, both inside and outside of school. Others simply give in to the monotony of the high school and life and quit doing work, thinking that there are better years ahead in college or in a career.

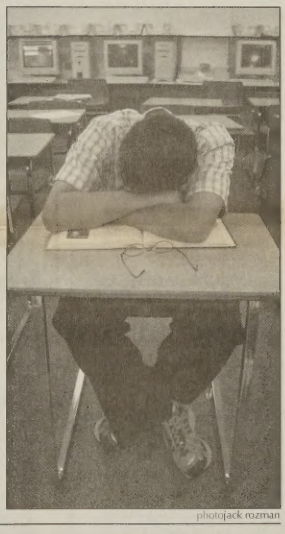
A student's senior year in high school should be a great year in their life and they should be entitled to have fun and enjoy themselves while they still can. However, many students take this too far and do not realize the effects that slacking off in their final year of high school can have on the rest of their life.

Many students think they can take all easy classes and get good grades and get into college because of their GPA. Other students just slack off on their work and don't try, thinking that colleges will never see the grades and they will never affect them. However, this is not true and students will be affected by these senior strategies when entering college. On many college applications, there is a section to write in the classes that you are taking in high school your senior year. Thus, if a school sees that a student is taking three gym classes and a study hall in one semester, they might decide to accept another similar student with a stronger, more challenging senior schedule. Many applications, especially to more selective schools, also require a midyear school report. Therefore, if a student slacks off and is receiving low grades in a lot of classes, colleges will take note of the drop in test scores and grades and the chances of being accepted are not nearly as high.

> "Many applications, especially to more selective schools, also require a midyear school report."
> Tyler Keena

Because of the long term effects, slacking off in your senior year of high school is definitely not a good idea. There have been instances where good students have failed to graduate because they stopped doing work in a class they needed to graduate. So it's my advice to all seniors to have fun, but don't forget about your school work. Turn in your assignments, keep studying, maintain decent grades and try to get at least acceptable to grades to get accepted or to assure that you can do whatever you want after high school. Then when graduation comes around, you'll really have something to celebrate.

Tyler Keena is a senior and works as a writer for the Spartana. *The views and opinions expressed in this editorial do not necessarily represent those of* the Spartana *or of its staff.*



photojack rozman

Political Enlightenment

High school population must inform self before formulating opinions

Christy Landrigan
Surplus Editor

Irrational, emotional, illogical, and obstinate, we teens are called. Honestly, though, who can contest the overall assessment? All one must do to find evidence in support of this accusation is introduce any serious topic to a group of teens to hear the most bizarre assumptions and conclusions from everything from justifications for drug use to support for one political candidate or the other.

The average level of American intelligence clearly drops dramatically around election time, when millions of Americans pretend to care and be informed about the government, the election process, the candidates, and, unfortunately, the issues themselves. These same people who suddenly become so passionately perturbed with opposing opinions are then transformed after election time to apathetic blobs. Allow me to cite a few examples of utter stupidity I have encountered in the halls in the past week alone from students who firmly believe that their statements are informed and factual.

"You said 'law,' so that automatically means federal!"

No, actually, our nation was formed on the bases of different levels and branches of government, including state and local governments which are both capable of creating laws. The most tragic part of the conversation was when this individual realized that he was arguing the same side that all the rest of us were.

"Voting is such a waste of time—I hate George W. Bush."

(If I was not sure that this person had not ever even heard of the Electoral College because he slept through government class, I would address the possible issue brought up by this statement, but it is a lengthy argument to assert that the Electoral College should be abolished in favor of a general popular vote for President.)

While most high school students are not of voting age, the person making this comment will be. He will continue to moan and gripe about President George W. Bush, but does not have ambition enough to do something about his loathing. That's like saying, "I wish Aéropostale would go out of business because their clothes are so juvenile," but continuing to buy their clothes. At the very least, you should shop somewhere else. Shopping elsewhere is not the most effective way to engender a change in the business, but at least you are no longer supporting them. In fact, if you are set on your goal of putting them out of business, you would encourage your friends to buy at other clothing providers, also, beginning a boycott. During election year, a similar act would be talking to your friends about the reasons that you 'hate' Bush with solid evidence from credible news sources to support your claims. I have ceased wasting my time arguing with people like this idiot who simply enjoys the sound of his own voice.

"I don't care what John Kerry stands for; anything is better than Bush."

So much happens behind public eye. The goal of each man is to get elected, and with John Kerry's statements about trade with China, a marriage amendment, or the Patriot Act, no one, including him, seems to have a clue what he believes. He is simply saying whatever he thinks will win votes. This blind following of so many Bush haters is scary to me; who knows what Kerry could do in office?

Maybe it might not matter. The President of the United States is a face for the world to see as our leader, some one to speak on our behalf. There are checks and balances in our government that prevent them from abusing their power, so a misinformed or badly informed vote might not be the travesty of which I am afraid. The two houses of Congress are drastically more influential than the President is on the overall status of our country; however, the general population as a whole is in charge of putting representatives there. Increasingly, as election time draws nearer, I realize how little I trust my fellow Americans to make an informed decision. Thankfully, most high school students are not legally able to vote.

If you want to know more about the election, I suggest at least reading headlines on cnn.com or establishing a reader account on nytimes.com. A fairly unbiased nonpartisan website that analyzes the presidential candidates' actions is vote-smart.org, where you may request informational items for free. Inform yourself.

Christy Landrigan is a senior and works as a writer for the Spartana. *The views and opinions expressed in this editorial do not necessarily represent those of* the Spartana *or of its staff.*

WAYS TO BECOME INFORMED ABOUT POLITICAL ISSUES

- USE IMC RESOURCES
- READ NATIONAL AND LOCAL NEWSPAPERS
- WATCH THE NEWS
- TAKE GOVERNMENT CLASS
- VISIT THE FOLLOWING WEBSITES:

WWW.JOHNKERRY.COM

WWW.GEORGEBUSH.COM

Drug testing justified, not violation of privacy rights

Supreme Court's logic in previous cases prove random drug testing ethical

Neil Shah
Writer

The legality of random drug testing in schools, namely high schools, has been in question for almost two decades. However, through a number of cases, the Supreme Court has decided that random, suspicionless drug testing can be conducted on students who participate in extracurricular activities such as athletics or academic teams. Although this resolution seems unfair at first, the Supreme Court's logic in making this decision is impeccable.

The first case to address the privacy rights of schoolchildren was the 1985 Supreme Court case *New Jersey v. T.L.O.*, which 14 year old freshmen T.L.O. was caught smoking in the bathroom with one of her friends. They were sent to the assistant vice principal; upon arriving, T.L.O. denied having smoked at all. The assistant vice principal demanded to see her purse and proceeded to search it. He found cigarettes, rolling papers, marijuana, a large sum of money, and letters that implicated her in drug dealing. The school brought charges against her, and she filed suit claiming her Fourth Amendment protection from "unreasonable searches and seizures" had been violated. The Court ruled, however, that the search was reasonable. In addition, it ruled that school officials need not obtain a warrant to conduct a search, and that the high standard of "probable cause" normally required to conduct a search does not apply in schools; rather, a much lower standard dubbed "reasonable suspicion" must be met in order to conduct a search. A later case presented the issue of random drug testing.

> Rather, a much lower standard dubbed "reasonable suspicion" must be met in order to conduct a search

The 1955 case *Veronica School District 47J v. Acton*-concerned the random drug testing of high school athletes. What makes this case questionable was that it focused on the differences between athletes and non-athletes. For instance, some facts of the case indicated that athletes are more prone to using illegal drugs than other students, making random drug tests more justifiable to conduct on them. However, the bulk of the case relied on the argument that athletes already voluntarily surrender much of their privacy to participate in the sport (examples include communal undressing and open showers), and random drug tests do not infringe this lower standard of privacy. Another case broadened the definition of students that could be randomly drug tested seven years after the *Vernonia* decision.

In the 2002 case *Board of Education v. Pottawatomie*, the Court ruled that students participating in any extracurricular activity could be randomly tested for drugs or alcohol. In this case, the Court lessened the differences between athletes and everyone else, arguing that any student who participates in an extracurricular activity has voluntarily given up privacy, giving the somewhat far-fetched example that if a team has to travel (say, the debate team), then students have to stay in the same room and give up privacy because communal undressing may occur. However, it is important to note that although random-drug testing is not perfect, its alternative-suspicion based testing-is significantly worse.

Individualized suspicion would demonstrate unfairness and absolute reliance on assumption and stereotypes. This standard would implement drug testing based on a school official's suspicion of any student. For instance, if a teacher notices that a student has red eyes or has trouble paying attention in class, he would be able to have that student tested for drugs. Racial stereotyping and stereotypes based on how people dress would undoubtedly influence which people are tested for drugs, which is grossly unacceptable in our society. Also, individualized suspicion would hurt those who are tested because each student who is tested would know that they were targeted because someone thought that they looked like a drug user. Although random drug testing is not a perfect system, its only alternative is much more detrimental.

The logical and ethical grounds of random drug testing are strong after having been established by the Supreme Court. Drug tests are hardly an invasion of our privacy, and they are necessary to keep the rampant drug problem of American youth under control.

Neil Shah is a senior and works as a writer for the Spartana. *The views and opinions expressed in this editorial do not necessarily represent those of* the Spartana *or of its staff.*

Random Drug Testing?

THE EDITORS SHARE THEIR THOUGHTS ON THIS CONTROVERSIAL TOPIC

Christy Landrigan

Surplus editor

As any student at this school will affirm, drugs are a huge part of daily student social life. Most, however, will not be so honest about student opinion on the harm of these substances on the body or achievement. Every Friday, the complaint that there's nothing to do in Fort Wayne is commonly heard; drugs seem to be the only thing that kids can find to do easily. It is difficult to respect our class leaders when, in my estimation, ninety percent of them are either casual or frequent drug users. Athletes in middle school are suspended from the team for failing to take proper care of their academic life, and kids are arrested when drug use is proven. It only seems appropriate, then, to step in at the high school level on matters of personal prioritization, also, but in a much more serious manner. It's important to slow the massive spread in popularity and use of drugs in our school before matters escalate beyond control.

In issuing random drug tests, the school administration would be wise, a statement supported by Supreme Court ruling. It would protect the student population as a whole in addition to keeping students from falling into the trap of addiction and self harm before it is likely to cause serious detriment. Those who oppose the drug testing are naive in thinking that the school is infringing on our rights--we have only limited rights because the purpose of the school is to protect students' best interest. Illicit drug use is not in the best interest of students, nor is it conducive to learning and overall well-being. Therefore, the pro-active approach of random drug testing to prevent drug use is fitting. There need to be consequences before kids become harmed by their decisions. It is a necessary step that the school can make in aiding parents who are trying to eliminate drugs in our community.

Josh Zurawski

Co-Editor in chief

Plagued by drugs, some students have never performed to their full potential. Beginning this winter, any student hoping to participate in an extracurricular activity must subject themselves to random drug testing. If they choose not to take the tests, they lose their right to participate.

It's about time. For far too long have students been able to participate in school-related activities without anything or anyone keeping them in check. If the students fail the tests, they must take the team punishment, plus receive drug consoling.

The first couple of seasons could be tough on athletics. Many kids will not take the testing seriously. It may take four or five players getting into serious trouble before the kids who want to participate realize they must clean up their act.

Of course there will be the kids who will choose pot over playing time. But those kids are never the serious athletes any ways. Once the system has been in place for a year or two I expect to see the programs return to normal.

I am concerned for the kids who refuse to take the test and in turn drop out of their activity, which was most likely the only thing preventing them from spending 95 percent of their time getting high. Perhaps the school could notify the parents of the kids who refuse the test.

It is encouraging to see the school allotting time, energy, and facilities to attend to its out of control drug problem. Maybe I will be able to sneak my lunch into the pub room on occasion.

Suhasini Bhargava

Co-Editor in chief

Despite the assertions posed by many that the random drug testing procedures proposed by the No Alcohol No Drugs (NAND) campaign are unjust because they do not target all students, they violate privacy rights, and they will not prove beneficial in the long run, I continue to support NAND's proposal of conducting random drug tests on student drivers and students involved in extra-curricular activities.

A common misconception among many individuals, drug testing does not actually violate any student rights. Supreme Court rulings have permitted the use of random drug tests for students taking advantages of privileges provided by the school (these court rulings are the reason why only student drivers and extra-curricular participants may be tested).

The manifest function of random drug testing should be law enforcement; if students are engaging in illegal activities, school officials should have the authority to use Constitutional methods in punishing offenders.

Additionally, testing should lower the amount of substance abuse within the school district because consequences for failed drug tests are significantly higher. Random drug testing is a fair method for promoting NAND's philosophy about remaining drug and alcohol free. The drug test uses minimal time, does not require school funding (all funding for the tests is being done through donations), and seems to have few imperfections.

The bottom line is the following one: if students are drug and alcohol free, the test will be a meaningless one for them. If students fail the drug test and suffer consequences, then NAND is successful in its quest. Either way, random drug testing is a win-win situation for the community. Should students still feel strongly against being drug tested, the following alternative is available: sacrifice privileges (not rights) such as driving and enrichment such as extra-curricular activities to uphold important principles.

Matt Anderson

Sports editor

And so the next step to put an end to Southwest Allen County's reputation as home to one of the biggest party high schools in Northern Indiana is the following one; random drug testing.

The difference this time is it might actually be effective.

If every student wanting to be active in some extra-curricular activity is forced to give his consent for being tested, maybe students will think-even if for just a second about what they are doing. I have no issues with students having to be tested to participate.

If they aren't doing anything illegal they have absolutely nothing to worry about. It's just that simple.

What I am interested to see though is if the school actually pursues this new option fully. For the program to be successful the school is going to need to achieve a few definite wins. Just the drug test threat alone isn't going to scare that many students; remember we are the people who still believe we are invincible.

The student body needs to see people getting caught and punished for what they did. They need to be shown that this is the real deal, and not just another gimmick that isn't really effective at all. For example, the drug free home phone list or whatever parents were asked to sign up for at the beginning of the year is useless. What parent would admit to another parent that, "Yes, my son is having people over to drink tonight." I don't know any. But I am diverging from the point.

For there to be a real hesitation in students there needs to be a real effort by the school. That could mean having the same players do a drug test two or three times a season. If players figure out they just have to wait for their "one" drug test, then everyone will just be patient until they have done their obligatory test.

Dillon Kimmel

News editor

It has been a known problem for years. As early as elementary school, we've been exposed to classes and seminars stressing the importance of being drug free. But what help has it done? Statistics show that more than 70% of high school students will at least experiment with alcohol. Obviously those skills classes haven't pounded the information into our heads well enough.

That's where No Alcohol No Drugs comes in. NAND's goals is to have the drug testing policy in place by the Fall 2005 semester, though it could be implemented this spring if funding becomes available.

Well it is about time. Finally, the district is attacking our school's problem of drug use head on. Finally they are implementing some real changes that will force hundreds of students to take a good look at their drug use problems. They will have to choose whether their booze and weed are worth giving up privileges such as driving to school and playing sports.

I tend to think they will choose their extracurricular activities. For most of them, I'll be willing to bet they will quit their drug habits for fear of testing positive. A few might see their weed as more important, but that raises alarms at home when they mysteriously quit sports and stop driving to school. There is just no way out.

In regards to accusations that mandatory drug testing is an invasion of privacy, it is not. If any student is breaking the law, nothing is an invasion of privacy. If he is under 18, he shouldn't be smoking anything. Weed is completely illegal, and those under 21 should not drink by law. Drug testing is only an enforcement of these laws. The students who are clean have nothing to worry about.

I give NAND officials props. They are really making a concerted effort in ridding our school- and eventually the community- of drug and alcohol abuse. I believe the system will work. I believe many students will see the importance of ending their destructive habits in order to continue their activities of choice. Even though teachers and anti-drug programs could never convince us of the risks involved with using drugs, the risks involved now should scare off offenders.

A house divided: should gay marriages be legal?

Members of the Spartana's staff present arguments for each side of this national controversy

Yes, gay marriage should be legal

Jim Katz
Designer

From Massachusetts to San Francisco, from protesters and petitioners to legislators and judges, and from the Constitution to the Bible, the battle for marriage is on, and in this choice on equality of marriage for all, the clear choice is equality.

Opponents of same-sex marriages, who call themselves "pro-family", have many different reasons why they feel that gay and lesbian couples should not have the right to marry.

One reason these people feel that homosexual couples should have the right to marry is because they believe same-sex marriages will destroy "the institution of marriage". The reality is that half of all heterosexual marriages end in divorce. Many gay and lesbian couples are fully committed to each other, being together for decades, as much as any loving marriage.

Another reason is the basic biology of human beings, and the inability of a same-sex couple to conceive children. Many heterosexual couples do not have children, either by choice or physical inability. This choice does not prevent them from being married, or in any way lessen their marriage and commitment to each other.

One serious issue is that opponents of same-sex marriage feel that a heterosexual marriage is needed to properly raise a child, and that having gay or lesbian parents can seriously harm a child's development. There is no verifiable evidence that same-sex couples cannot be loving, caring and responsible parents. Many people who are against same-sex marriages are also against the choice of abortion. They claim that adoptions are a way to deal with unwanted pregnancies, yet they are opposed to the right of a same sex couple to adopt children, which would add many more homes for those children.

The major issue in the debate on same-sex marriage is the religious beliefs surrounding homosexual relationships. The overriding issue is that in America we live in a secular society where religious beliefs are not, and should not be a part of national policies.

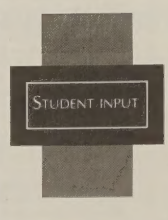
Those against same-sex marriage have one group who they blame most for the events that took place in Massachusetts (where the State Supreme Court allowed same-sex marriages) and in San Francisco (where more than two thousand same-sex marriage licenses were issued), whom they call "activist judges." This implies that a judge is taking the law into their own hands, ignoring legislators. Many judges were called the same name when dealing with civil rights issues, including inter-racial marriage. The responsibility of a judge is not to ebb and flow with the shifts in public opinion, but defend what the Constitution deems to be.

One major concern of those who support same-sex marriage is the extension of rights and privileges of married couples to same-sex couples. These privileges include visitation rights, periods off of work for bereavement and financial rights such as sharing health care benefits and retirement plans.

President Bush and most of the Republican controlled Congress are calling for a constitutional amendment to ban same-sex marriage. This movement is a serious problem that is counter-productive to the purpose of the Constitution of the United States. Since the Constitution was ratified more than two hundred years ago, it has only had twenty-seven amendments, and only seventeen since the Bill of Rights. Up until now there have been no Constitutional amendments that have taken rights away from people, and an amendment banning same-sex marriages would be a first one to take away rights and liberties from US citizens.

Our rights as Americans extend only to the point that they take away someone else's rights. You have the right to be as strongly opposed to homosexual lifestyles and behaviors as you want, but your right ends when it prevents a consensual, loving same-sex couple from taking the ultimate step in commitment as a couple: marriage.

Jim Katz is a junior and works as a designer for the Spartana. *The views and opinions expressed in this editorial do not necessarily represent those of* the Spartana *or of its staff.*



"Gay marriage is alright since it is the two peoples' decision, and because they like each other and want to make a life together."
Tony Bowen (11)

"I think gay marriage should be legalized because I honestly do not think you can define marriage except on the basis that it happens when one person loves another person."
Tanvi Chhatiawala (11)

No, gay marriage should not be legal

Tim Clark
Writer

A volcano of gigantic proportions is about to explode. A volcano full of turmoil and controversy. The volcano is looking to erupt, and it's only a matter of time before the world begins to tailspin on the freeway of immorality.

Gay marriage is this immorality. If made legal, gay marriage will change the definition of family and society. The world is in enough turmoil as it is with all the bloodshed and tears it possesses.

Gay marriage, condemned by mainstream Christianity over the world, continues to gain support in the secular world and more liberal segments of Christianity. Supporters of this agenda are trying their best to shame Christians into accepting them and their lifestyle as normal and moral. A Christian is labeled a bigot and narrow-minded if he does not accept or agree with the gay lifestyle. While there are those who can be hateful and bigoted, many Christians operate under the "love the sinner, hate the sin" theory.

Gay marriage takes this demand for acceptance, however, to a whole new level. Now we are being told to abide by their theory of equal rights in the arena of marriage and family. From a Christian perspective, it is clear that homosexuality is wrong and is a sin in the eyes of God. Passages such as Leviticus 18:22, First Kings 14:24, and Romans 1:24-27 clearly acknowledge that homosexuality is a sin. With this understanding of the scriptures, it is difficult to comprehend that a church would be expected to marry or support the marriage of a gay or lesbian couple, thus condoning sin. From a societal or family perspective, marriage has been defined in our culture as one man and one woman being joined in holy matrimony. Webster's dictionary resource also defines

"Our legislators must take a stand and protect the sacred institution of marriage, marriage between one man and one woman."
Tim Clark (11)

marriage as the coming together of a husband and wife. In a family with two male or two female partners however, the whole concept of child rearing becomes very confusing.

It has been widely accepted that a child needs both a mother and father to be emotionally healthy and well adjusted. Even in single parent homes due to divorce, the courts have been very adamant in regards to the importance of both parents being involved in a child's life. Therefore, a problem arises in gender confusion for the children of that same-sex couple. This situation creates more troubled children and teens in a world that already has enough woes. Many married couples and opponents of same-sex marriage fear that this is only the beginning and that if we change the definition of marriage for the homosexual agenda, then there will be agendas for issues like polygamy and who knows what other perversions of the institute of marriage. These changes would undoubtedly upset the balance or morality in the U.S. and all over the world.

This unknown, will fuel the fire of this controversy for many years to come. It can only get worse if this topic is left to sit on the back burner while the gay marriage agenda gains more support the world over. Our legislators must take a stand and protect the sacred institution of marriage between one man and one woman. We can only hope that the institution of marriage will not become a casualty of the war on morality that has removed prayer from schools, taken the 10 commandments off courthouse walls, and nearly removed the reference to God in the pledge of allegiance. For a country founded on Christian principals and beliefs, we are steadily becoming a pagan society.

Tim Clark is a junior and works as a writer for the Spartana. *The views and opinions expressed in this editorial do not necessarily represent those of* the Spartana *or of its staff.*

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The Spartana is a biweekly production of the Journalism 3/4 class at Homestead High School. Its purpose is to enlighten, educate, and entertain. *The Spartana* has and may continue to operate as a limited open forum for the free exchange of ideas.

Profanity may appear in *the Spartana* with the approval of the advisor, but only in cases of direct quotations or if it is necessary for clarity. Material which is libelous or obscene and could cause substantial and material disruption, as defined by the Supreme Court, will not be printed.

Public input will be accepted in the form of letters to the editor. Letters must follow standards concerning liable or obscenity. Those which could cause substantial and material disruption, as defined by the Supreme Court will not be printed.

Staff members of *the Spartana* support the First Amendment rights and oppose censorship in any form. The content of the paper is determined by the student staff. In cases of potentially controversial material the editorial board will meet to decide the content of the newspaper. Students will be assisted by the advisor in areas of professional ethics and legalities.

Scholastic Switch

Students transfer from local schools to join the Southwest Allen County population

Neil Shah
Writer

A number of students here can say that Southwest Allen is not the only district in which they have attended school throughout their lives. In addition, a number of them can say that this high school is not the only one that they have attended. Many students that have transferred here from other high schools in Fort Wayne, such as Concordia, Elmhurst, and Canterbury, have favorable first impressions.

Many of the transfer students that came from private schools enjoy the many aspects of a public school that do not hold true at private schools. For one, public school fees are nominal in contrast to private schools like Concordia and Canterbury, which cost thousands of dollars per year to attend.

Also, the dress codes at public schools are typically much more relaxed than those at private schools. Jennifer Trok (11), who transferred from Bishop Luers this year, used to have to wear khakis and a polo shirt every day (except for some, on which students were allowed to wear shorts) to school.

"I like the fact that I get to wear my own clothes now," Trok said.

In addition, many students value the large school atmosphere that they encounter here instead of the small school atmosphere at their previous schools. Tesia Lapp (11), who transferred from Canterbury this year, did not prefer the small 60 student-per-class setting she used to encounter.

"You're with the same people the whole time you're there," Lapp said.

With lots of resources and a strong faculty, transfer students appreciate the strong academic program here. First, many take advantage of the freedom to take many different courses because such a wide variety of classes is offered. Jessica Berner (12), who transferred from Canterbury, commented on the academics here.

"The classes are tough here, and there are a lot more of them compared to Canterbury," she said.

Also, the differences between the science departments here and at Luers are notable. With more resources, the science department here is more expansive and diverse.

"At Luers you could only take the basic sciences, like chemistry and physics," Trok said. "Here I get to take marine biology."

The curriculum here compared to those at other schools is also noticeably different. In the majority of cases, the curriculum at this school is stronger and more defined.

"I think the setup of the school and curriculum is very good," Lapp said.

A number of transfer students talked specifically about the teachers here. Anna Gallo (12), who used to go to Elmhurst, feels that teachers here are more friendly and helpful than at Elmhurst.

"I like the teachers," Gallo said. "I can ask questions and not be scared about it."

Tesia Lapp made similar remarks about the teachers she has.

"I love the teachers I have this year," Lapp said. "They are really excited to teach here."

Students also noticed a difference in the facilities they have access to now compared to the facilities at their former schools. Many of them say that the technology is significantly newer here, and that they found themselves using the various resources here more often than they did at their old schools.

Along with the major aspects of Homestead that transfer students like better than their past schools, also many of them appreciate the smaller, more personal aspects that do not necessarily apply to all of them. For instance, many other schools in Fort Wayne do not allow bookbags, creating major inconvenience for their students.

"At Elmhurst, we weren't allowed to have bookbags," Gallo said.

Also, the social environment here is a pleasant surprise to many transfer students, who never had the chance to experience the diversity of a public school at the private school they used to attend..

"Here, you can always find people that you can relate to," Lapp said.

Many of them, however, miss certain aspects of their old schools as well. Trok misses some aspects of being at a Christian school.

"I miss being able to pray in school," Trok said.

In addition, the closeness of a small school is hard to recreate at a large school.

"At Elmhurst, I knew everybody and they were all nice to me," Gallo said. "It's not like that here."

Canterbury High School 5601 Covington Road Fort Wayne, Indiana 46804 436-0746 Population: 271 School Type: Private

photojosh zurawski

photojosh zurawski

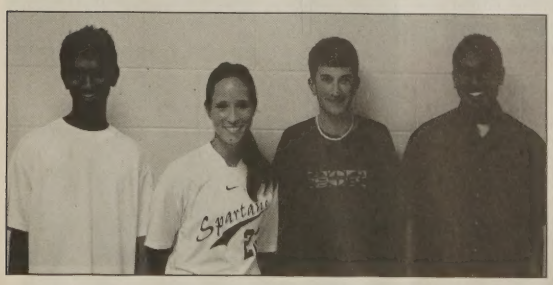
Elmhurst High School, 3829 Sand Point Road, Fort Wayne, Indiana 46809, 425-7510, Population: 911, School Type: Public

Homestead High School 4310 Homestead Road Fort Wayne, Indiana 46814 431-2251 Population: 1909 School Type: Public

photozach hetrick

National Merit scholarship program announces four semi-finalists

Sanjeev Balamohan (12), Katie Beck (12), John Greco (12), Neil Shah (12) score above 215 on PSAT



» National Merit semi-finalists Sanjeev Balamohan, Katie Beck, John Greco and Neil Shah are pictured above. Balmohan's after school activities include Speech Team and DECA. Beck plays on the varsity soccer team. Greco is President of Key Club. Shah tutors after school.

Katie Beck (12)

College Planning to attend:
Wake Forest

Planned major:
Pre Law

Neil Shah (12)

College Planning to attend:
Wharton School of Business

Planned major:
Economics or Finance

Sanjeev Balamohan (12)

College Planning to attend:
Northwestern

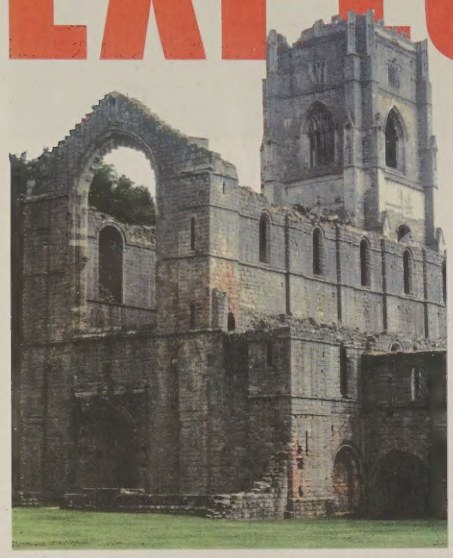
Planned Major:
Pre Medicine

John Greco (12)

College Planning to attend:
Yale University

Planned major:
Biochemistry

EXPLORING ENGLAND



Steve Clough travels with students for 12 days in England and Scotland

Ashley Butler
Profiles Editor

Last summer, English teacher Steve Clough and 12 of his Advanced English Literature students took a 12 day trip to parts of England and Scotland.

The group left from Chicago on June 12th to embark on an eight- hour direct flight to Manchester, England.

This trip was designed around major research papers that the students were required to write in class. During the trip, the students visited many of the areas that they wrote about in their papers.

In 1995, Clough had visited England for the first time because of a reference to Settle in his grandfather's obituary.

"When I went over the first time, I spent five days in Settle and researched the county archives, local archives, and church records and just found an explosive story," Clough said.

Clough discovered that his family, which he had thought was from Liverpool, was actually from Settle.

After extensive research, Clough dated his family's Settle residence back to 1590.

"For the first time in well over 100 years, our family had a sense of roots and history as to who we were and where we had come from," Clough said.

Clough continued to visit Settle and learn about his family through many more trips to England.

"I've continued to go back and have spent probably six to seven weeks in Settle in the years since," Clough said.

In 2003, Clough was able to meet cousins of his family who still reside in Settle; this past summer, Clough met with them again.

"On this trip, I was able to spend an afternoon with cousins of my family who I met in 2003, but it was a part of our family that we had been separated from since 1871," Clough said. "I walked into their lives last summer, and on this trip I went over to their house and had tea."

The group of students spent the first week of their trip in Settle and North Yorkshire where Clough could tell his family's story and show students places that he had talked about throughout the semester.

> "For the first time in well over 100 years, our family had a sense of roots and history as to who we were and where we had come from."
>
> Steve Clough

While in Settle and North Yorkshire, students visited locations from the set of "Calendar Girls," a movie that was released last year.

In England, Clough and his students visited a number of places that were 5000 years old or more.

"People don't normally think of Western Europe as being that old and having civilizations going that far back," Clough said.

Durham Castle and Durham Cathedral were among the many sights that the students saw while in England.

Durham Cathedral is one of the oldest in Britain, and is knows as the "Father of English Cathedrals." The cathedral still holds mass weekly as it has done for the past 900 years.

Another place of interest that the group visited was the 534 foot long York Minister Cathedral.

After spending a week in England, the group of students and faculty members traveled to Scotland for the remainder of the trip.

While in Scotland, they visited many towns including Lindesfarne, Edinburgh, and Iona.

One of the students' favorite parts of the trip was the world renowned European Cup, which spanned throughout the entire trip.

"Everybody put on their English stuff and bought English shirts, and we cheered for England during the trip," Clough said. "When we were in Scotland, we were cheering for the English, and the Scotts were cheering for the English to lose."

An aspect of the trip that the students were uneasy about was the food.

England is rumored to have horrible food, however Clough and French teacher Gregory Fryzel proved the contrary.

"Mr. Fryzel was with us in 2000, and he said that all the food he had was excellent, so good that it surprised even him," Clough said. "I've been there eight times and I've never had a bad meal."

Clough was delighted to share his love of both England and Scotland with his students in both the summers of 2003 and 2004.

"I just desire to share those things that are so precious to me with my students," Clough said.

The tower of the Fountains Abbey, located in England, was build in the 1,100s A.D.

Gretchen Zahm, former Homestead student traverses the bridge at Bolton Abbey. This Celtic monastery was erected in the 600s A.D. After crossing the stone path, the group dined at the Abbey Tea Shop.

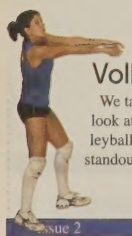
Clough's group of students visited numerous burial sites during their stay in England and Scotland. This cemetery in Lindesfarne was the site of the first Viking invasion in Britain in A.D. 793.

Rocks overlooking a lake in Staffa, Iona make for a scenic picture of the Scottish landscape. The group, along with English teacher Steve Clough, visited Iona in the middle of their trip, after venturing to England.

SCOTTISH CRUMPETS

2 cups flour
3 tbs. sugar
2 eggs
Bit of oil
2 tbs. melted butter
1 tbs. salt
1 1/2 cups buttermilk

Beat eggs well. In another bowl, mix flour, sugar, and salt. Add mixture slowly with melted butter to eggs. Slowly pour in milk to thin batter. Beat well. Heat a griddle, and grease with butter. Pour 1 tsp oil into griddle for every 4 crumpets. Pour in 1 tbs of batter for every crumpet. Flip crumpet when golden brown. Spread with jelly or chocolate. Yield 20



Volleyballin'

We take an in-depth look at the varsity volleyball team, including standout Jill DeArmond.

p. 4B

Sports

Take it to the house

Seven times in fact, in a win against Bellmont on the new turf.

p. 2B

Three's Company

THREE SENIOR SPARTAN FORWARDS CONTINUE TO LEAD THE SOCCER TEAM TO VICTORY

Evan Childers
Writer

Pay close attention while watching the boys varsity soccer team. The team's forwards, Chase Meeks (12), Ben Haifley (12), and Shane Connolly (12), have the speed, agility, and all-around offensive power to get down the field faster than almost anyone.

Two weeks ago, the DeKalb Barons fell to the Spartans' offensive coordination and speed. In fact, it was Chase Meeks (12) who scored against the Barons within the first ten seconds.

Imagine that- before one can count to ten, the Spartan forwards have already scored.

In that match the Spartans defeated the Barons 3-1. The boys made a solid offensive and defensive effort throughout the game. Meeks had two goals himself, and Connolly had the third. With the win, their record improved to 8-2 (3-0) at the time.

"We played well against them [DeKalb]," soccer player Eric Miller (12) said. "In the second half our offense slowed down, but we still played well."

Although the match is now a few weeks past, the victory is still important because at the time the Barons were ranked first in the local power poll, which includes ten of the "top" teams from the region. The Spartans were not included on that particular list.

The game itself was a real grudge match. The Barons were shoving Spartans all across the field, but this attack did not affect the team's determination in the match, or the determination of the team's three offensive weapons.

"We kept our heads despite their [DeKalb's] dirty tactics," Miller said.

This varsity squad has looked convincing in almost every game it has played so far this year. The boys are undefeated in conference play, and have only lost two games all year, one to Carmel at the beginning of the season, and one to Columbus North. Columbus North edged the Spartans out, 1-0, and Carroll survived a late surge by the Spartans to win 3-2. But, in a recent rematch of the two teams, the team shut out Carroll 3-0, improving to 9-2.

"We have great team unity," Miller said. "It's right where it needs to be. It's the best it's ever been at my four years at Homestead."

With the way the Spartans and their forwards are playing now, a trip to state is not entirely out of the question. Last year, the squad narrowly lost in a regional match to Carroll. This year, though, team members have higher hopes.

"We hope to at least get to semi-state this year," Miller said. "Some of other goals are to beat Canterbury and Carroll by three goals each."

At the time Miller did not know his team would achieve one of those goals in their upcoming match.

"We're really starting to come together as a team," Miller said. "There are still a few areas we need to focus on, but right now we're on a good path."

The boys varsity soccer team played at Bishop Dwenger on Thursday, September 23. Results were unavailable as of press time. The boys play against Canterbury High School on Saturday, September 25 at 7:30 p.m.

CHASE MEEKS

- **2** Goals scored against Dekalb
- Number of conference goals scored **3**
- **1** Number of goals versus Col. City

BEN HAIFLEY

- **3** Goals scored against Center Grove
- Total goals against Noblesville **2**
- **2** Number of goals versus Col. City

SHANE CONNOLLY

- **2** Assists and goals against Col. City
- Conference games without a goal **0**
- **3** Total assists against Center Grove

photos/illustrationzach hetrick/josh zurawski

Cross country uses regular season to prepare for sectional play

GIRLS MAINTAIN ATTENDANCE AT PRACTICES, RACE AGAINST DEKALB, CARROLL

Caitlin Myers
Designer

Training for the girls cross country team began late in June and it is now paying off as they head well into their season. Practicing at least twice a week during the summer, the girls are now up to practicing everyday after school from 2:45 to around 4:30. So far, the season has been successful for the girls as they have already ran in six races.

The first practice meet was the DeKalb Invitational, which consisted of at least four other teams. Joy Nordin (11) placed 11th, Bliss Cook (12) placed 12th, Alex Battell (11) placed 16th, and Kelsey Knapp (9) placed 18th. For this meet, no official team scores were kept.

The girls' first official meet was August 26th and they ran against Snider, Bishop Luers, Elmhurst, and Harding at Snider. This meet ended in a first victory for the team.

"I think we ran really well here," Liz Comer (11) said. "We were able to see some of the runners, new and old, that we were going to have run against this season."

On August 26th, the cross country team ran against Columbia City, where another victory was achieved.

The next meet, which was ran on September 7th, was against East Noble and Bellmont. The score was Homestead 27, East Noble 47, and Bellmont 58. The team was led by Nordin with a 3rd place finish and a time of 16:18. In 4th place, with a time of 16:19, was Cook.

The Northrop Invitational took place on September 11th, and lasted almost the entire day. For the girls, the races were divided up into two groups: the freshmen/sophomore races and the junior/senior race. In the freshmen/sophomore race, Knapp placed 9th with a time of 15:47. For the junior/senior race, Cook led the Spartans with a 14th place finish with a time of 15:51. Over all, the Spartans placed 5th out of five teams, which consisted of Northridge, Snider, Chesterton, and Concordia.

"Over all, I think the team has done really well in all of the meets," Amber Piercy (12) said. "The underclassmen have really stepped it up to help the team."

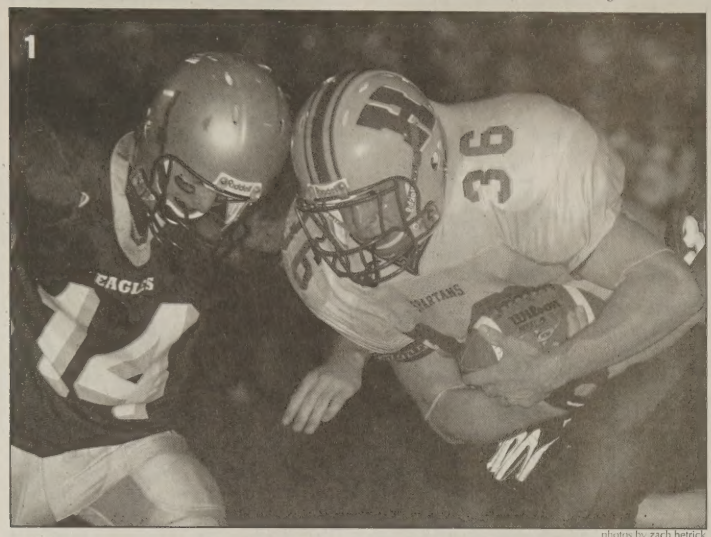
For the only home meet, which took place Tuesday, September 14th, the girls raced against Carroll and DeKalb. Carroll was first, over all, then Homestead was 2nd with a score of 47, then last was DeKalb, with a score of 57.

Upcoming meets for the girls cross country team include ones against Snider High School on September 25 at 9:00 a.m.

« Kelsey Knapp (9) runs in the only home cross country meet of the year against Carroll.

Varsity football charges into conference play head on

Team players 'put their heads together' in order to come up with strategies on the field, to claim victories in Northeast Hoosier Conference



photos by zach hetrick

Jared Baker
Writer

Starting the season 2-2, the football team members have fallen a bit short of their high expectations.

The team started off with a tough loss against East Noble, and then traveled to Columbia City to face a good NHC rival.

"This game was huge for us," Ryan Chenoweth (12) said. "It's hard to win NHC with two losses, so we had to win to keep our confidence up and our conference champs hopes alive."

The Spartans were the first to score with Taylor Kinzer (11) getting 10 of his 86 yards on a quick score.

"That was a big confidence booster for the offense, which is the weak point of the team," Dusty Stalling (12) said.

Columbia City soon followed that score with one of their own, throwing a 16 yard pass into the end zone, tying the game 7-7.

Before the half expired, the Spartan offense struck again, with Ryan Rahrig (12) running 9 yards for a touchdown.

"Going into the second half with a lead was huge, we don't get that kind of comfort too often," Stalling said.

The third quarter was a battle of the defenses, keeping both sides out of the end zone.

Going into the fourth quarter with a touchdown lead made the Spartans very confident.

"Our defense is solid," Chenoweth said. "We feel like we can stop any team out there if we need to, that's what it came down to Friday night."

The defense held strong, keeping the Eagles out of the end zone for the second consecutive quarter.

"That really put an end to it, the defense takes pride in not letting our opponents score, and the team knew we (the defense) wouldn't let it happen," Stalling said.

The defense held strong, keeping the Eagles out of the end zone for the second consecutive quarter.

The defense gave up a total of 300 yards to the Columbia City, (143 yards rushing, 157 yards, passing) but did a great job keeping the Eagles out of the end zone, and maintaining the lead.

The running game, as usual, was the key to the offense against the Eagles. Led by Matt Witham (12) with 120 yards on 17 carries, and Tim Reid (12) with 18 carries for 107 yards.

> "This game was huge for us, it's hard to win NHC with two losses, so we had to win to keep our confidence up and our conference champs hopes alive."
>
> Ryan Chenoweth

The Spartans' offense produced a total of 381 yards (all rushing), spread between seven different players.

For the second consecutive game, the Spartans did not complete a single pass.

"Our running game is really what's going to carry this offense this year," Chenoweth said. "We really don't have a guy who can get the ball to receivers consistently, so Reid, Witham and Rahrig are going to have to run well if we plan on winning this year."

The Spartans had a big NHC match up against the Bellmont Braves last week.

This game was the first played on the new state-of-the-art turf that was recently finished.

The Spartans defeated the Braves 54-21.

"It's going to be fun out there, the crowd should be big since it's the first home game of the season, we're pretty confident that we can come out of the game with a win," Stalling said (as of press time).

The football team continues to work on strategies for upcoming games.

Football Scoreboard:

Huntington North: won 31-0
East Noble: lost 10-7
Columbia City: won 21-7

Boys cross country team aims for semi-state

Tim Clark
Writer

Cutting through the breeze, stomping over the rough terrain, cutting around corners like there is no tomorrow: these are some of the many actions of the boys cross country team deals with during their season. The cross country team is enjoying a good season thus far. Compiling a record of 4-3 so far this year, the boys cross country team, which plays all of its home matches behind the Aboite Fire Station, in and throughout the environmental center, has only positive goals to look forward to.

"Coming to the end of our season our team has a positive outlook on the upcoming races," Galen Harden (10) said.

Along with the team's accomplishments this season, individual accomplishments have not gone unnoticed.

"At the Northrop Invitational, out of our 16 runners, 14 of them had personal bests," Dick Shenfeld, the boys cross country coach of 30 years said.

Shenfeld has nothing but positive goals for his team as they enter the last stages of their season.

"Our goal is to keep improving and to do well in the NHC and sectionals," Shenfeld said.

This season has not been a dominant one by any means, but the team has vastly improved.

"We are further along than we were last year," Shenfeld said.

Even though the season has not been as top notch as in other seasons, Shenfeld still expects to be very competitive in the NHC tourney.

"I hope we are in the top half," said Shenfeld. "That would consist of us making the top four teams."

In cross country, the 'playoffs' consist of a sectional, regional, semi-state, and state meet. The top five teams in sectionals will advance to regionals. Thereafter, the top five teams from regionals will advance to semi-state. After that, the top five teams from semi-state will partake in the state finals. However, even if the team does not make it that far, individuals can.

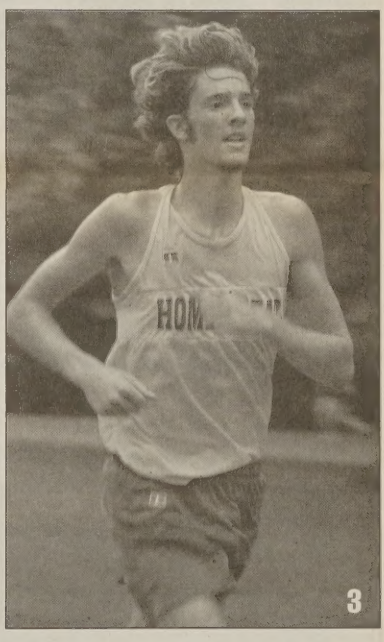
"Steve Clark has a good shot, but it will be tough," Shenfeld said. "He [Clark] has been our number one runner this season."

The team's overall goal, however, is a conservative one.

"Our goal as a team is to get to semi-state," Shenfeld said.

Whether or not they place high enough to make it to state will not take anything away from the fact that the boys cross country team has had a very respectable season.

"Our team has had some injuries throughout the season," Harden said. "With the season drawing to a close most of the runners have healed by now."



1: Taylor Kinzer (11) and an opposing team member hit heads during a game. << 2: Tim Reid (12) runs with the ball. ^3: Ben Townsend (11) runs during a cross country race. v4: Tyler Freeland (11) and Matt Anderson (12) shake opponents' hands.

Young Spartan tennis players crush their older competition

Joe Salisbury
Writer

While some people thought it might be a down year for the boys tennis team, members quickly proved that they were an area powerhouse and a state championship contender. A year after losing several of their top players including Sam Rocke, Kyle Brown, Alex Bienz, and Troy Bixler, the Spartans are being led by a group of underclassmen. The number one singles player Greg Dillon (10), the number two singles player, Cameron Huffman (10) and the number three singles player, Danny Reecer (9) have all proved that they are able to carry the load for the team.

In their first match of the year, they quickly showed that they could compete with anyone when they faced West Lafayette, one of the top teams in the state, but lost 3-2. They quickly rebounded from the loss by smashing Snider 5-0. Then they went down to Indianapolis to play Park Tudor and to compete in the North Central Invitational. The team lost to Park Tudor 5-0, and came in 7th in the invitational, but saw this loss as a great experience to prepare them for later in the season.

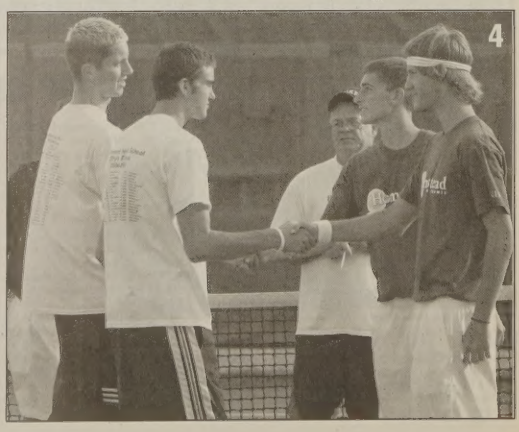
After coming back from the invitational, they had their first conference match against DeKalb. Knowing that this was an important match, they won 5-0. Next they competed in the Homestead Round Robin. They won their first match against Lawrence North 5-0. However, then the team fell to two more of the state's best against Delta and South Side in two very close matches. Next the team played East Noble in another conference contest, and was able to pull out a victory, 5-0. They had another conference match against New Haven, winning 5-0. They won their annual invitational on September 18.

Even thought the team may be young, they still have high hopes.

"We want to win conference, win sectionals, and make it through regionals and beat South Side in a rematch, and then whatever happens after that happens," Huffman said, "We really want another shot at winning against-South Side."

They appear to be in good shape so far to win conference. They are 3-0 with three matches to go. With Carroll also losing many of its best players, the team thinks that it is the best team in the NHC. Also, they have already gained a lot of experience early in this season against several of the state's top teams. The team will be extremely well prepared when it comes time for sectionals and the rest of the post season.

Along with their goals for this season, many of the sophomores and freshmen are already excited about the next few years. They feel that they can go far with the team this year and gain valuable experience for the upcoming seasons.



JV volleyball team suffers matches lost early in season

Josh Butcher
Writer

With a record of 4-11 for their first 15 games, the JV volleyball team members are looking to improve from their disappointing start. They seem to play very competitively against the more skilled teams, but not as aggressively against the weaker ones. This pattern shows a lot of potential for the team against tougher competitors, but they will need to start playing competitively all the time in order to pick up a few more wins. Eventually, the girls will need consistency to win the Northeast Hoosier Conference.

Starting off the season, the Spartans faced a tough Concordia Cadets team. This game was a big one and a vital way to begin a winning season. It was a very tough match, but the Spartans fell through, and lost their first game of the season. The Spartans went on a losing streak, losing five games. They broke it with a win in their first tournament, improving their record to one and five.

The Spartans lost again to Northside, but rallied back for another win against Wayne. Trying to improve upon a 2-6 record, they played Elmhurst and Bishop Dwenger, but lost in a disappointing style to both. The Spartans played Marion next, and tallied up a much needed win. They won one more game in their next tournament but lost two more.

Their next match was against Huntington North on the 15th, which they lost. The next day, on the 16th, they won against a decent Columbia City team.

Coach Matt McCarter is back again coaching the JV squad. The players seem to think that he is a great coach that knows what he is talking about from his experience.

"He knows what he's doing," Stephanie Mitchell (10) said. "He keeps us focused and tries to bring the best out of us at all times."

"He knows a lot about the game," Erica Merrifield (10) said.

It looks as though they are not playing as well as they are capable of playing.

"We have our good days and our bad days, just like any team does," Merrifield said.

"We have good team chemistry together, for the most part," Lauren Cleaver (10) said.

Cleaver pointed out a few weaknesses in their play.

"Communication is our biggest problem," Cleaver said. "We definitely need to talk more on the court."

Cleaver thinks things might be starting to get better though. "We run, run, run in practice, doing suicides and all sorts of other drills. We work on everything like passing, serving, and our overall game, but the hard work is beginning to pay off," Cleaver said.

She feels that the game plan that has been working so far is one of observation.

"We watch the team before playing," Cleaver said. "We don't know what's going to happen but we change and transition to the other team's style of play."

Other team members commented on play against competitive teams.

"When we played Snider, one of the better competitors, if we could have just pulled it together we could have won," Merrifield said. "At one point we were only down bye two and lost. We just picked it up too far into the game and dug ourselves a big hole."

Fifteen games into the season, they still have a couple of tough competitors down the road. They found Snider and Carroll to be tough teams, but they still have to play Norwell and Dekalb, two strong teams.

Some exciting moments have occurred throughout the season.

"We played Carroll in our tournament," Mitchell said. "We played really well and it was fun although we lost."

It was a great match with many exciting points.

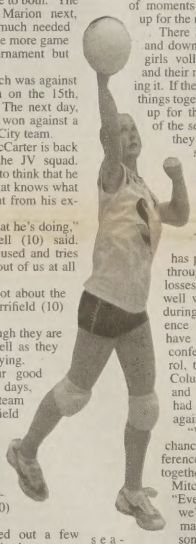
"My favorite moment was against Snider when I had an awesome block against a great middle hitter," Cleaver said. "Those kind of moments get you fired up for the next point."

There have been ups and downs so far in the girls volleyball season, and their record is showing it. If they can put some things together and pick it up for the second half of the season they feel they will be in good shape. Their main goal is to get some of these close matches wins instead of losses.

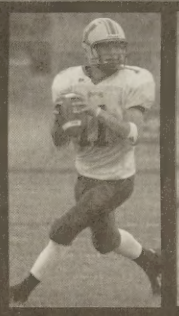
The team has pulled together through these tough losses and has done well when it counts during their conference games. They have only lost in conference to Carrol, they have beat Columbia City, and they have had a tough match against Dekalb.

"We have the chance to win conference, if we come together as a team," Mitchell said. "Even though we've lost a lot of matches in regular season, we've been doing well against the conference teams."

The team has already lost to Carroll, so if they can pull out some wins against the other conference teams they could be a top competitor in the NHC.



» Anna Huguenard (10) returns the ball.



» Ryan Cicero (10) runs past defenders from Warsaw, carefully making his way towards the end-zone.

« Far left: Grant Laird (10) runs the ball up the field during a game against Warsaw. Middle: Jordan Wise (10) gets ready to throw a pass. Far right: Kenneth Perkins (11) sprints his way towards the end-zone.

JV's perfect playing

The JV football team has started off its season with a perfect record

Jessica Bird
Writer

Home field advantage is a very important aspect in sports. Helping fans and a familiar field cause teams to usually be more successful at home. The JV Spartan Football players, however, have been successful with an undefeated record, and yet have not played a single home game.

There are other aspects, aside form home field advantage, that help a team have a successful season.

"The chemistry between the players on the team is really good," Ryan Cicero (10) said. "The coaches do a really good job at preparing us for [each] game."

After playing four games, the team has only allowed one touchdown against them versus the 80 points they have scored on opposing teams. The touchdown was scored on August 20 against Huntington North, where the Spartans won 27-6.

The team then traveled to Warsaw on August 27, to win their first of three shut-outs in a row, 20-0.

"In four games, only one touchdown was scored, and with three shutouts in a row, it proves that our defense is very strong as well as our offense," Coach Shawn Harkness said.

> "The chemistry between the players on the team is really good. The coaches do a really good job at preparing us for [each] game."
> Ryan Cicero

The next of the shut-outs came against East Noble on September 3. Ryan Wright (9) scored a rushing touchdown as well as a passing touchdown to Cory Elmer (10) leaving the Spartans with a 12-0 victory.

At Columbia City, on September 10, Cicero connected with Muler for a touchdown pass in the first quarter. The second quarter ended with a last second touchdown pass from Cicero to Grant Laird (10). The game ended with a fourth quarter touchdown run by Kyle Fezi (10), to make the score 21-0.

"The hardest team [to beat thus far] was probably East Noble," Laird said. "They were big and fast."

Although the team has been successful so far, there are still tough teams to play against.

"The hardest team to beat is going to be Norwell, they have always been a good team, they are big, fast, and pretty strong," Laird said.

Despite a new multi-million dollar field, the JV team feels that their team is just as good on that field as it is on any other.

"We are just going to keep playing the same way [before the new field]," Cicero said. "If anything, the new field helps because it gives us a little more added energy."

Having home field advantage, however, does not equal a guaranteed win. The team knows that they will have to continue to play their best each and every time they step onto the field.

"Everyone on JV just wants to play," Laird said.

The team's most recent game was Saturday, September 18th against Bellmont. The final score against the Braves was 14-2.

Change of fate occurs after early losses

Despite losses in earlier games, the JV boys soccer team regains strength

Taylor Pyle
Writer

Starting out the season with three victories and three losses is a solid way to get the ball rolling for the boys JV soccer team. Their first game was against the East Noble Knights. Ahead at halftime 2-0, it looked like smooth sailing for the Spartans.

Starting the second half the Spartan defense let up and allowed two quick goals by the Knights, tying the game at 2-2. The Spartans did not give up, and they scored another goal to take the win. Sharrod Curry (9) was the main man in this battle, scoring two goals for the Spartans.

The next game against Columbia City was not as difficult as the first, as the Spartans cruised to a 2-0 win. Michael Cobb (10) and Curry scored the two goals for the Spartans. Curry was again the savior in the game against the Bellmont Braves, scoring the only goal of the entire game giving the team a 1-0 victory. On a winning streak, the Spartans hoped to give themselves another win by beating a tough Center Grove team. The game was a difficult one, resulting in trash talk, a carded Zach Gentry (10), and a Spartan loss.

"Our team should go far," goalie Jon Miller (10) said. "We lost to Center Grove but we aren't going to let down, we are going to fight hard."

Coming off the loss by Center Grove, the Spartans were determined to chalk up a victory against the Dekalb Barons. Two goals in the first half by Gentry kept the Spartans in the lead 2-0 at half. But once again, the Spartans' defense let up; this time it proved to be fatal. The Barons scored two goals in the second half to defeat the Spartans 3-2.

> "We lost to Center grove, but we aren't going to let down, we are going to fight hard."
> Jon Miller

Their next opponent was the Concordia Cadets, but the Spartans did not bring their "A" game. They were defeated by he Cadets in disappointing style 5-1.

"I think our team is pretty good," Cobb said. "There is still room for improvement though. Right now we are working on switching the field through our center mid-fielders and having our forwards show for the ball."

Cobb plays both forward and center midfielder for the Spartans and is one of the leaders on the team.

In practice, the team works on a number of strategies and drills to improve their skills. Some drills include showing for the ball, shooting and passing, and using touch on the ball. The team also conditions at the end of practice and runs when it messes up to get in better shape.

"Our team needs to work on ball control, the strength to keep control, and one time shots or just shots in general," Miller said. "If we get the ball to our guys up top they can get the job done. Lots of the guys are strong and won't let a tackle take them out. Others are probably worried about getting a card so they fly instead. We have to think strong and have the other team underestimate us so we can surprise them and take them out."

Head Coach Paco Castillo is the leader of the team on and off the field.

"Coach Paco is a great and fun coach," Cobb said. "He is really easy to get along with while still teaching us the basics of soccer. The rest of the team also gets along with him easily, so it makes things a lot more fun."

Castillo's goal is to get all of the junior varsity players to the varsity team.

The Spartans' expectations are high for the season, not letting a couple of losses get in the way of their goals.

"This year we shouldn't do too bad," Cobb said. "I think we will come across a couple of losses that will help us learn and fix our mistakes, but for the most part we should win."

The Spartans have a home game against Canterbury High School coming up on Saturday, September 25 at 6:00 PM and an away game at Norwell High School on Monday, September 27 at 5:00 PM.

Upcoming games

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 25 AGAINST CANTERBURY HIGH SCHOOL
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 27 AGAINST NORWELL HIGH SCHOOL

BOBCAT BOUND

Jill DeArmond receives full-ride scholarship to play volleyball at Ohio University

Sarah Kennedy
Associate Sports Editor

After breaking out of her shell this season, senior setter Jill DeArmond leads the Lady Spartans volleyball team in both assists and kills. But more important than her personal statistics and season accomplishments is the full-ride scholarship DeArmond recently received to play volleyball for the NCAA division one Ohio University Bobcats.

There are not many high school students who can say they have a full-ride scholarship to a major university. But DeArmond was also able to choose from several different colleges, most of which offered similar scholarship opportunities.

DeArmond has been playing volleyball since she was in sixth grade.

"When I was in middle school, the varsity volleyball coach from Homestead, Sherri Surniss, asked me to start setting," DeArmond said. "I really liked it and got into travel volleyball. I got a lot of exposure from it and it was a lot of fun."

DeArmond continued with volleyball throughout her middle school career and as a freshmen in high school. She also played basketball as a freshmen until an injury put her on the sidelines. DeArmond's knee injury put high school sports on hold for a while.

"I realized that volleyball was what I missed most while I was injured, so that's what I really focused on in my sophomore year," DeArmond said.

During her junior year, DeArmond sent out two-hundred e-mails to different volleyball programs in the United States. At a tournament soon after, a scout from Ohio University watched her play. The university invited her to visit the campus, where DeArmond later found out about the school's scholarship offer. She continued to look at another ten different colleges and received several more opportunities for other full-ride scholarships. Last April, she verbally committed to Ohio University, which is located in Athens, Indiana.

PEAK

VOLLEYBALL PLAYER JILL DEARMOND AIMS FOR APEX; SHE LEADS TEAM IN KILLS AND ASSISTS

PERFORMER

"I went to camp this summer and was able to meet my coach and the people that I will be playing with next year," DeArmond explained.

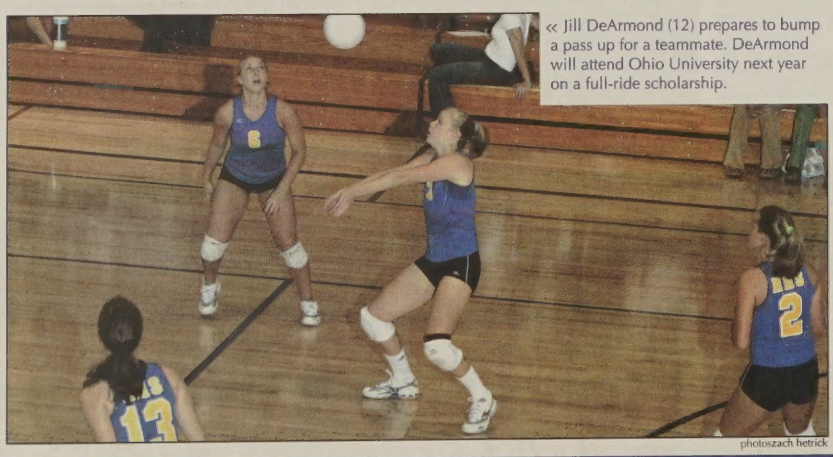
DeArmond will be playing in the Midwest Athletic Conference (MAC) at Ohio University, and has been recruited to replace the graduating setter for the team. She plans to major in dither athletic training or physical therapy while she is attending Ohio University.

"I'm more excited than nervous, but still very nervous," DeArmond said.

She planned to attend a college with a program that is rated within the top thirty in the United States. Ohio University is ranked twenty-sixth in the country for division one volleyball programs.

"I just like the team aspect and my position, which is setting," DeArmond said. "I like how the sport is complicated, and there's always so much going on."

DeArmond is looking forward to playing for Ohio University following her senior year of high school; she can now say that she has always been one to follow her dreams.



« Jill DeArmond (12) prepares to bump a pass up for a teammate. DeArmond will attend Ohio University next year on a full-ride scholarship.

photoszach hetrick

Second in conference for soccer

A narrow 2-1 defeat at the hands of Carroll forces loss of title

Sam Van Horn
Writer

The varsity girls soccer team has the total package this season; in the Northeast Hoosier Conference, they are third in goals with 30, and third in assists with 21. The lady Spartans have also allowed only seven goals all season. This year the varsity girls soccer team is the real deal.

The Spartans have started this season strong with a 7-3-2 record, including a 4-0 start in the NHC.

"I feel good about this season," history teacher and coach Pat Teagarden said. "We're competing well against our competition."

On September 13, the girls traveled to Dekalb. The game went as well as it could have. In the first half, Alyssa Lee

> I feel good about this season. We're competing well against our competition.
> Coach Pat Teagarden

(11) scored two out of the three goals to take an early lead over Dekalb. In the second half the Spartans did not look back, scoring five more goals. Dekalb did not have a chance all game as Jessica Bruce (11) and Kassandra Johnston (11) split time in goal and had to only save one goal the entire game. The Spartans dominated and ended up with an 8-0 road victory.

The team's next game was at home to face Northrop. The Spartans did not struggle and were able to easily knock off their opposition.

On offense Nadia Ghaffarian (10) led the way with two goals. Also scoring were Hannah Blevins (12), A. Lee, Samantha Lee (11), and Kathryn Zachman (11). They combined for six goals and made Northrop work if they were to stay in the game. However, the defense was dominant as Bruce spent 60 minutes not allowing Northrop to score and Johnston only allowed one goal in 20 minutes played. The Spartans won 6-1 and were ready for their next conference game at Carroll.

It was a hard fought game as there were only three goals allowed the entire game. In the first half, Carroll's Michaela Shaw scored the only goal as the Spartans were struggling to get anything going offensively. In the second half, Jillian Burkhart (12) scored late but the goal was not enough for the victory. Bruce spent the entire game in the goal and had six saves, but allowed two goals as the final score was 2-1.

With a record standing at 7-4-2, the lady Spartans have four games remaining on their schedule. With two home games remaining, they look to end the season as strongly as they started it.

Upcoming games include one against Norwell on September 27 at 5:00 p.m. The team will play Huntington North on September 29 at 4:00 p.m. at home.

FINAL SCORES

AGAINST NORTHROP: 6-1
AGAINST DEKALB: 8-0
AGAINST CARROLL: 1-2

Tough and challenging season ahead for volleyball

COUNTING ON PRACTICE AND TEAMWORK TO IMPROVE A STRUGGLING SEASON, VARSITY VOLLEYBALL HEADS INTO A DIFFICULT CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

Alicia Batchelder
Writer

They bump. They set. They spike. They are a team of ten. They are the girls varsity volleyball team.

The team is very dedicated to volleyball. Many of the girls have spent years playing to the game.

"I have played volleyball since sixth grade," opposite Kati Beutler (10) said. "I love to play volleyball and enjoy being a part of a great team."

The season thus far has been a challenging one for the girls. They played their first game against Concordia, which resulted in a tough 3-0 loss.

They, then, lost their second game to Bishop Luers and won against North Side, Wayne, and Elmhurst, before losing to Bishop Dwenger. They beat Marion, but lost to Snider, and followed that with wins against Huntington North and Columbia City.

"We've had a tough season, but our conference games are starting and I think we'll be ready," middle hitter Monica Krause (11) said.

Their first game within the NHC conference was a home game against Columbia City on September 16. They hope to have high attendance at their upcoming home games.

"We always play well when we have fans that come and support us," Krause said.

A number of the girls are new to the varsity team. There is only one senior, Jill DeArmond. Many of the girls are juniors, but there are a few sophomores and freshmen.

The girls are close on and off the court. They have become a group of good friends, who care about each other and help one another get ready for games.

"All the girls are great and all the older girls have helped me to learn more about volleyball," Beutler said.

They have team dinners, so that they can get together and have a good time before games. They always sing "We're going to Kentucky" before a game, while dancing around, in order to get pumped.

They play together at practices and games, and have become more of a family type of group than merely a volleyball team, through the many hours spent together each week.

As they prepare to play within the conference, this team of friends spends their time practicing and playing volleyball, but, also, spending time with one another as friends.

Scheduled events for girls volleyball include sectional and regional games.

photozach hetrick

^ Danielle Gauthier lays down a spike on a high flying tandem of defenders.

photos courtesy a.j. pape

School resource officer A.J. Pape combines law enforcement, coaching, counseling on daily basis

Hybridization

Jim Katz
Designer

With the goals of helping to cut down on students' use of alcohol and drugs as well as creating a better line of communication between the school and the Allen County Sheriff Department, SACS has hired School Resource Officer A.J. Pape.

As the resource officer for the entire district, Pape's responsibilities include helping to prevent in-school conflicts, responding to emergencies and speaking to classes about law related topics. Students will also be able to speak to him one-on-one about personal or law related issues.

"The impact on people's lives day to day [is what I enjoy most about law enforcement]," Pape said.

Pape graduated from Snider High School and then went on to Tri-State University where he had a double major in Marketing and Business Management. During college he was a reserve deputy for the Steuben County Sheriff Department.

After college he planned on becoming a financial planner, but decided instead to become a full time substitute teacher for Fort Wayne Community Schools. In 2002, he joined the Allen County Sheriff Department. During this time he was part of the Allen County Jail's transport division.

As a member of the Allen County Sheriff Department, Pape was one of nine officers who applied for the position of resource officer of SACS. They went through an interview process followed by a presentation. In the end Pape was chosen.

As the new resource officer he hopes to accomplish several goals at this institution.

"[I want to] try to eliminate drugs and alcohol at Homestead and educate students on the consequences of using drugs and alcohol," Pape said.

The 2004-2005 school year is the first of four years of a preliminary contract for a resource officer for SACS. After the first four years, the program will be reevaluated and if it continues, several other officers may be hired for the district to work at the other schools. For now Pape is the resource officer for the entire district. Though his office is here, and most of his attention will be focused at the high school, he is available to the other schools as needed.

Pape is currently unmarried and spends much of his time away from school riding motorcycles. He owns two motorcycles, a Harley and a custom chopper, and has been riding them for about five years.

During the school week, Pape follows a busy routine. He starts his day at seven o'clock each school day. Some time spent at his desk filling out is usually his first task. Then as school starts, he sweeps through the parking lot to ensure that all parking passes are valid. He also completes hourly security checks of the school, and he monitors lunch periods to help prevent fights. After school, as part of the crisis committee Pape works with other staff members to prevent emergencies and create plans for different emergency situations including terrorist attacks and school shootings. He also spends a great deal of after-school time as a coach for the freshman football team.

As the first resource officer for this school district, Pape aims to aid in providing a safe environment for the remainder of the school year.

"Let's try to have a fun and safe school year," Pape said.

photos suhasini bhargava

Officer A.J. Pape and assistant principal Steve Lake work together in the discipline office. One of Pape's two motorcycles is pictured below.

surplus

issue 1 surplus volume 1 september 24, 2004

Take Sides wins Battle of the Bands ; AJ Pape ; food, music, and movie reviews

a column by Christy Landrigan **the lost art**

Pro nun see AY SHUN

The demise of 'probably'

PROBABLY
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Pronunciations of Indianapolis

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Anynaplus

Engineaplus

Indanaplus

Indianaplus

Christy Landrigan
Surplus Editor

If one were to ask directions from some places in Indiana, one might be directed to "git 'cross a crick, past a house with the red wroof, and onto Innerstate sixty-non" to get to the state capital of "Indinplis." Such talk is often confusing to listeners unaccustomed to the different dialects and mispronunciations common to Indiana residents.

Film and video and drama teacher Ed Koczergo is known to all of his students as a stickler on proper pronunciation of the English language; students in his introductory drama class are exposed frequently to spoken lessons in appropriate ways to say certain words. He has noticed a number of words commonly mispronounced, including the mispronunciation of the Indiana state capital, Indianapolis, which should have six syllables when spoken.

"Even some of our finest politicians have butchered that [word]," Koczergo said. "I actually have a recording of Indianapolis pronounced eighteen different ways. I have no idea why 'Indianapolis' is so difficult to say."

He attributes the acceptance of wrongly pronounced words into everyday English to the influence of famous figures.

"I think because people hear other people say it that they adopt it as part of their speech," Koczergo said. "We hear sports figures or sports announcers and race car drivers pronounce it that way, and we think it's okay."

Koczergo does not limit his blame to media figures, though. When asked how he thought President Bush's Texas-based speech affected the English language, he made his statement very simple.

"His ignorance astonishes me," Koczergo said. "It is truly astounding to me. I've never heard anybody butcher the language like that except maybe Dan Quayle."

Quayle, who ran for vice president with the elder George Bush, also hails from Indiana.

According to Koczergo, there is no excuse for wrongly pronounced words.

"It is just lazy speech," Koczergo said. "It is really scary how lazy people have become in their speech patterns."

Further, Koczergo claims, there is a standard resource to determine correct speech.

"There is a proper way of saying every word. Webster's determines it," Koczergo said.

French teacher Gregory Fryzel had a different explanation for shortened words and statements.

"I think a lot of them [grammatically unsound statements] come from the tendency in spoken language to shorten things as much as possible," Fryzel said. "It's cumbersome to say, 'I think that the grass needs to be mowed.' You just say, 'The grass needs mowed."

Fryzel is also more forgiving than Koczergo.

"It's not necessarily incorrect, it's just dialect," Fryzel said. "France has them. That's part of the beauty of the spoken language."

Christy Landrigan is a senior and works as the Surplus Editor for the Spartana. *This column appears every issue. The views and opinions expressed in this column do not necessarily reflect those of* the Spartana *or of its staff.*

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AMERICAN EAGLE EDDIE BAUER CHICK-FIL-A QUIZNO'S SHARPER IMAGE OLD NAVY CLAIRE'S THE BUCKLE SUNGLASS HUT BARNES & NOBLE

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Larry Buchanan
Associate Surplus Editor

All great rock bands have to start somewhere, right? Right, and for The Hives this was at an eighth grade Christmas show, in Sweden. The Hives are a Swedish garage-punk band that uses their best assets, simplicity and volume, to their advantage.

After releasing a hit album in 2002, Veni Vidi Vicious, The Hives decided to try again with their most recent album, Tyrannosaurus Hives.

The guitar-heavy band seems to have hit it big with this one, which has even been called "the best album of the year" by MSNBC.

The Hives take a difficult concept and make it simple. The album seems to be filled with tracks that all sound alike at first, but after a few listens, you realize they are all totally different. The Hives stay upbeat with all of their songs. They could be compared to a hyper version of Franz Ferdinand. They have also been compared to bands such as the Strokes and the White Stripes.

They kick off the album with a short first track, "Abra Cadaver", which starts off the CD well. They go onto the guitar heavy song "Two-timing touch and broken bones," and then on to their probably most recognized song on this album, "Walk Idiot, Walk". With an awesome tambourine, killer drum beats, and an awesome bass riff, I think that this song is by far the best on the album. After track number 4, "No Pun Intended", the tracks start to slur together. It's not until you get to track number 8, "Diabolic Scheme", do you hear a different sound. This is the slowest song on the album. In this track, synthesized strings are used to produce an awesome sound, along with basic guitar riffs with solos thrown in.

The Hives seem to have hit it big again with this album. This music is good to listen to, really whenever you feel like it. Even if you're not a punk fan, this is a little more upbeat than punk, and you may like it, so check it out.

The band is made up of 5 Swedes; lead guitarist Nicholaus Arson, drummer Chris Dangerous, bassist Dr. Matt Destruction, rhythm guitarist Vigilante Carlstroem, and lead vocalist Howlin' Pelle Almqvist.

^This is the cover of The Hives brand new album, *Tyrannosaurus Hives.*

Concert Listings

The Hives are currently touring in the UK and other places overseas.

who: Kid Rock
where: Coliseum
when: September 30
time: 7:30
tickets: $34

who: Incubus
where: Coliseum
when: November 3
time: 7:30
tickets: $33.50

who: Tim McGraw
where: Coliseum
when: September 24
time: 7:30
tickets: $39 - $60

who: Take Sides
where: Bryant, Ohio
when: September 25
with: Cookiepuss
tickets: not disclosed

the Charts

The top 20 albums from across the Nation.
(As of 9.17.2004)

1	*What I Do*	Alan Jackson
2	*Live Like You Were Dying*	Tim McGraw
3	*Genius Loves Company*	Ray Charles
4	*My Everything*	Anita Baker
5	*Now 16*	Various Artists
6	*Autobiography*	Ashlee Simpson
7	*Beautifully Human*	Jill Scott
8	*The DEFinition*	LL Cool J
9	*Happy People/ U Savedme*	R. Kelly
10	*Straight Outta Cashville*	Young Buck
11	*Song About Jane*	Maroon 5
12	*Confessions*	Usher
13	*Musicology*	Prince
14	*Here to Party*	Gretchen Wilson
15	*Under My Skin*	Avril Lavigne
16	*Horse of A Different Color*	Big and Rich
17	*Welcome Back*	Mase
18	*Los Lonely Boys*	Los Lonely Boys
19	*License to Chill*	Jimmy Buffet
20	*Garden State*	Soundtrack

Kasey Butcher
Writer

Dillon Kimmel
News editor

EVERYBODY'S TALKING ABOUT IT!

It's Terrific!

ORSON WELLES

CITIZEN KANE

Butcher and Kimmel explore Orson Welle's mysterious rosebud

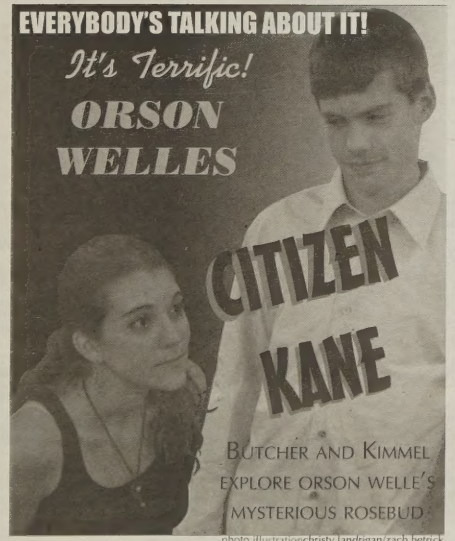


photo illustrationchristy landrigan/zach betrick

« Kasey Butcher and Dillon Kimmel replace Orson Welles and costar on the *surplus* remake of a popular promotional movie poster when the movie was initially released in 1941 to much controversy.

How well do you know Welles?

1. In what other form of entertainment was he proficient?

2. How many hot dogs did he once eat at a single sitting?

3. What now famous paternal movie role did he decline?

4. What famous baseball player hit his first home run on the day that Welles was born?

5. Which actor and singer did he chose as his daughter's godfather?

Answers at bottom of page.

What happens when you cross one child prodigy and one movie contract with the most powerful press man in the world? Two things; immense controversy and the American Film Institute (AFI)'s Number One film of the last 100 years. This film, *Citizen Kane* was written, directed, and starred in by Orson Welles in 1941 and distributed by RKO, which had given Welles a two movie contract with almost complete creative liberty after his infamously upsetting "War of the Worlds" radio broadcast.

During this time, William Randolph Hearst, yellow journalist-extraordinaire, was still alive and reigning over his empire of newspapers and radio networks. Hearst had been through several wives and was keeping a mistress in his enormous, over-the-top, Neverland-like Hollywood Hills estate. The mistress, who Hearst had been with for many years and loved very much, would become a key player in future controversy. Welles set his sites on making a movie about Hearst and his rise to power and fall from ethics. And, when you are a boy-genius with creative liberty and few inhibitions, what's to stop you?

After considerable production setbacks and difficulties, Welles's movie finally came out, far behind schedule. RKO was not happy. Hearst was not happy either. He had gotten wind of the movie while it was still in post production. He would have let it slide, had it not been for Welles's unflattering portrayal of his mistress, who comes off as an obnoxious golddigger. As if this were not enough, the movie's plot centers on discovering the meaning of Hearst's fictional counterpart, Charles Foster Kane's, dying word, "Rosebud." Although it means something different in the movie, Rosebud is allegedly what Hearst called his mistress's lady parts. This secret was not something he wanted to become public knowledge.

Hearst ordered his newspaper and radio critics to pan *Citizen Kane*. It was not shown in many theaters at Hearst's discretion. It was upset at the Academy Awards, losing the Oscar for Best Picture to *How Green Was My Valley*. Welles's career was ruined. More controversy, however, was still to come.

In 1972, the shooting script of *Citizen Kane* was publicly published. This refreshed and heightened a feud between Welles and co-writer Herman J. Mankiewicz over who contributed which parts and how much to the script. This dispute over a now internationally known film sunk Welles even further.

Redemption would come in 1998, when the AFI published their list of the "Top 100 American Movies of the Last 100 Years." Welles, prodigy to celebrity to has been, now had a place at the top of film history. Fifty-seven years after the release of *Citizen Kane*, the film that should have made his career was finally pulling through.

Citizen Kane is a frequently mentioned, but not a frequently viewed movie. *Surplus* takes a closer look at a movie that was ahead of its time, controversial, and is now a piece of popcultural history.

Citizen Kane was ahead of its time in many aspects of its visual composition. There are countless beautiful images and angles throughout the film. The lighting is clear and beautiful. Many frames are like gorgeous black and white photographs. The visuals capture and contribute to the mood of the story immensely.

Some of my favorite shots include a viewing of a nurse entering Kane's room through the concave lens of a broken snow globe. Another lovely frame features Kane's right hand man sitting at his desk discussing a memory he has and in the glass top of the desk he is reflected crystal clear. It is just gorgeous.

Playing Charles Foster Kane was not much of a stretch for Orson Welles. Both men were brilliant, driven, and tragically flawed. Nonetheless, the performance is very, very good. The portrayal of Kane is smooth, charismatic and comedic, as well as unattractive and sad. The pitiful nature of Kane's life as portrayed by Welles leaves the viewer feeling helpless. Welles does a fantastic job bringing the character to its full potential. He also steals the show. It is difficult for me to remember any of the other actors' names or performances. They are completely upstaged by Orson Welle's impeccable performance.

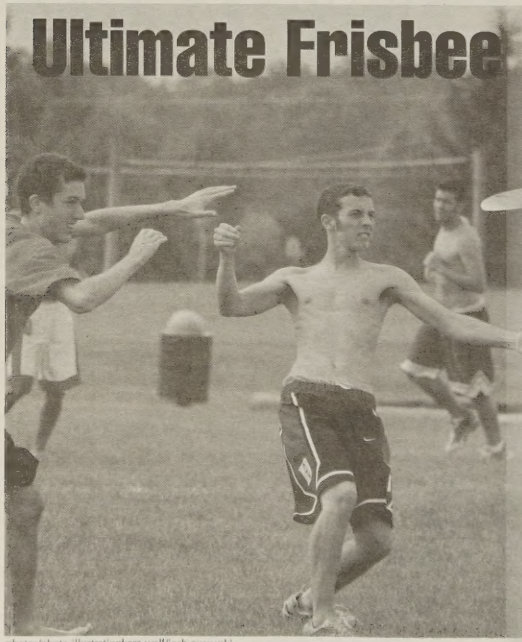
It is hard to critique a story that is based upon truth. My DVD version of *Citizen Kane* came with another feature film length DVD on the history behind the movie. I found that story much more interesting. *Citizen Kane* is not a boring movie by any means. It is long, but knowing the back story makes the movie much more enjoyable. The story is not only interesting but is well-scripted. The story flows well and is easy to understand. Moments of humor are intertwined with those of grief, delivering a perfect balance.

What: Citizen Kane
Where: Mitchell Books's Studio M Theater in Coventry Plaza, 6360 West Jefferson Boulevard
When: October 12, 13, 19, & 20

1. Welles regularly practiced sleight-of-hand magic in case his career came to an abrupt end. 2. 18 hot dogs. 3. Darth Vader. 4. Babe Ruth. 5. Frank Sinatra. Information obtained from www.imdb.com.

Ultimate Frisbee

The sport of the new millennium



photos/photo illustrationkara wall/josh zurawski

» Evan Childers (12) attempts to intercept a frisbee thrown by Don Ueber (12) in a pick-up game of shirts versus skins ultimate frisbee on the soccer fields by the volunteer fire station on Aboite Center Road. Jared Baker (12) jogs to aid his teammate, Ueber. «As Matt Anderson (12) is double-teamed by Viraj Verma (12) and Jared Lance (12), he throws the frisbee narrowly through the hands of his opponents to a nearby teammate from the skins team.

Eight men stand in a field, ready to play an old-fashioned game of backyard football. The cleanly cut grass stretches out before them, as they prepare to do battle in this impromptu grudge match.

"Who has the ball?" a player asks.

One by one each player shrugs. The football, a key component of the game, has been forgotten. Despair strikes the congregation.

"What will we do?" a player laments. The group contemplates.

"Well," one player says slowly. "I have a frisbee."

And indeed, the man does have a frisbee.

"What can we do with a frisbee?" Another responds. The group contemplates again.

"What if we play football... with a frisbee?" The frisbee-holder dares to ask. And on that field, a new sport is born. The eight competitors play the game long and hard, and afterwards, one asks,

"What should we call our new sport?"

"Frisbee?" Someone conjectures.

"No." Another replies. "Let's call it Ultimate Frisbee."

From that day forward, the world of sports, and the world of frisbees, has never been the same.

Actually, I made up the preceding scenario. But, I imagine that Ultimate Frisbee must have been created in a similar situation. It may even have been played thousands of years ago by the Mesopotamians or the Aztecs, I do not know for sure. What I do know is that Ultimate Frisbee, the sport of the new millennium, is here to stay.

As you read this, You might be wondering a few things about ultimate frisbee. Among the things you might be wondering:

"What is a frisbee?

"How do you play?"

And, "Is 'Ultimate Frisbee' truly ultimate?"

Well, let me answer those questions, as I take you on a journey through the great, nationally recognized sport of Ultimate Frisbee.

First of all, if you do not know what a frisbee is, stop reading this article and focus on prioritizing your life. I can't help you.

Secondly, I will describe how to play this great game. Each team fields seven players, and each team has the objective of passing the frisbee into the opposing team's end zone. You complete this task through a series of passes, which ultimately result in the score. Once you catch the frisbee, you can take no more than three steps in any direction before you must pass it again. If the frisbee is dropped, the other team takes possession and has a chance to score. Teams play to a predesignated score, and the first team to reach that score wins.

And finally, if you have doubts about the ultimate qualities of ultimate frisbee, then you had better get out there and play a game. You won't be disappointed.

Ultimate frisbee has received a bit of recognition in recent years here at Homestead. In fact, Intramural teams will be forming for another great season here at homestead.

On a national scale, ultimate frisbee is widely unknown. But, in my uninformed opinion, the sport is gaining popularity, and will soon take the national spotlight away from all other sporting events. It will soon be more popular than the Olympics, the Super Bowl, and the World Series combined. I'm pretty sure, at least.

If you want to form a team, then go out and do it! Just remember, at the end of the day, that you aren't just playing regular frisbee- You're playing Ultimate Frisbee.

Evan Childers is a senior and works as a columnist for the Spartana. *This column appears every issue. The views and opinions expressed in this column do not necessarily reflect those of* the Spartana *or of its staff.*

FASHION FORWARD

ASHLEY BUTLER

TWEED

Tweed has been making a comeback this season. This chic and sassy fabric from the 60s and 70s has transferred its classic look to modern coats, skirts, hats, and even shoes.

Hat by Amanda Smith $29

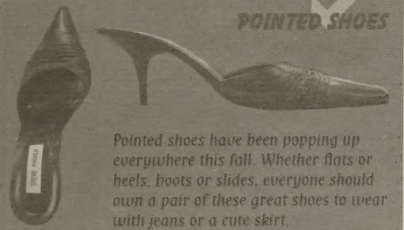
PONCHOS

I have no idea who came up with the idea of wearing baby blankets over their shoulders and calling it fashion, but the look is certainly not flattering on anyone. This style trend does not only hide the slender figures of most girls wearing the ponchos, it reminds me of old women in nursing homes.

The Verdict: Ponchos should be left out in the rain

Shoes by Steve Madden $70

POINTED SHOES



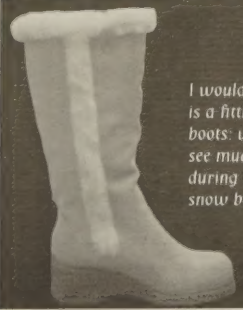
Pointed shoes have been popping up everywhere this fall. Whether flats or heels, boots or slides, everyone should own a pair of these great shoes to wear with jeans or a cute skirt.

FLIP-FLOPS WITH HEELS

Shoes American Eagle $20

The fashion staple of the summer, this twist on the everyday sandal is reaching new heights. Some people may perceive these shoes as uncomfortable, but we've found a great, soft pair.

UGG BOOTS



I would definitely say that Ugg is a fitting name for these clunky boots: ugly. Sorry, but I don't see much snow in Fort Wayne during the summer, therefore, no snow boots.

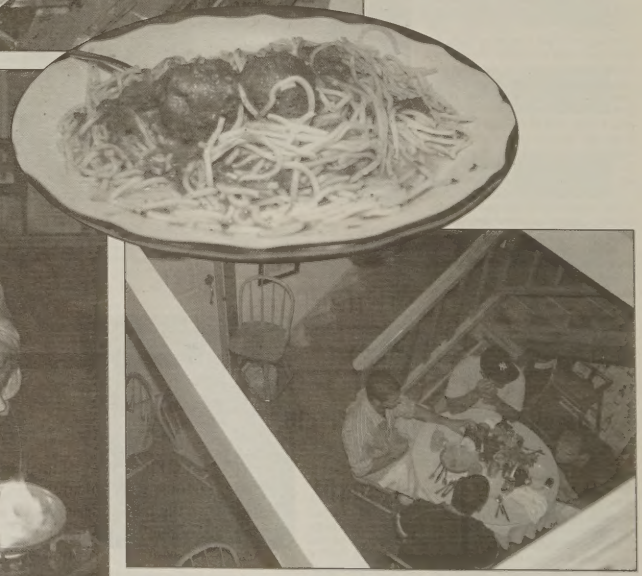
Stash It OR Trash It

Stash It	Trash It
Black Fedoras	Von Dutch Hats
Slippers	Chunky Heels
Pearls	Rhinestones
Chandelier Earings	Giant Hoops

« Pots and pans galore, the stove top in the kitchen of the Italian Connection is home to fresh sauces and homemade noodles prepared by Chef Fiato.

Food reviewers Josh and Jack try some authentic Italian, decide the bar for excellence has been set

» Alexander Fiato, owner and chef of the Italian Connection, adds honey to a Strawberry Alexander.



» The brighter lighted of the two dining rooms, the room in the back offers a friendly atmoshpere and a wet bar. The other room has softer lighting, quiet jazz-like music, and the perfect ambience for a date.

talian Connection

Josh Zurawski
Co-Editor in Chief

Jack Rozman
Photographer

Jack: While feeling the pressure of a section editor demanding a review concerning food, I suggested we lay the pressure on the tiny little Italian restaurant on Taylor St. The editor had suggested some tacky Mexican spot, but I put my foot down and said "I'm diggin' some Italian tonight." Since Josh and I dine on a regular basis, I borrowed him and his car, and we sped off to the Italian Connection.

Josh: Get your license. Unlike Jack, who used to attend Sunday Mass with the owners of the restaurant, Alexander and Elizabeth Fiato, I had no insight other than the restaurant was a hole in the wall. Once Jack navigated our way to the restaurant, which I nearly drove past, we parked on the side of some road off Taylor. After we entered the building, we knew we were in for an interesting evening.

Noticing the soothing, calm ambiance as we were directed to our table, I couldn't help but stare at the plethora of empty wine bottles gracing the walls. Each bottle tells the story of its owners; Fiato encourages his guests to write their name, their dishes, and the date on the stickers (on the wine bottle).

Sorry Jack, no wine for you. As we perused over the menus, we couldn't help but notice that the prices were comparable to those of Biaggi's or Casa, depending on the dish. The basket of garlic bread was tactfully placed on our table while we were contemplating which entree suited us best. The bread was, well, quite incredible.

Every single taste bud I possess was thoroughly enjoying every morsel of the hot garlic bread.

Enough said. Once Jack finally decided on spaghetti and meatballs (it only took him ten minutes), we ordered. Within ten minutes our food was on the table. Words were not passed between us for the next fifteen minutes while we dominated our pasta.

The spaghetti and meatballs, although simple and widely available, was a true Italian experience. The noodles were obviously not the average grocery store bought noodles.

The lasagna was nearing perfection. I'll never eat Stouffer's again. Ever.

When we had made our reservations for our cute little date, Fiato had invited us to come back and see the kitchen. It seemed like a big deal to us, but since most customers stay late into the night, they exit through the kitchen because Fiato has to lock the front door. Our adventure into the kitchen was a food review first. We tasted the white sauce, which, like everything else Fiato serves, was homemade. All of the pasta and sauce for every dish is prepared by the chef, Fiato.

In the midst of exploring the kitchen, Fiato handed us some plates and we served a table.

Yeah, I'm not sure what that was about. Italians these days...

While in the kitchen, Fiato explained that "mom and pop deals are a dying breed" and get overlooked because of faux-Italian restaurant tycoons like Biaggi's. I must say, after spending a night there, it saddens me to see the new breed of restaurants dominating my dining choices.

It saddens me that Biaggi's draws a bigger crowd that the Connection. Fiato will serve you fresh sauces and homemade pastas that put Biaggi's to shame.

I used to think Biaggi's had good desserts, too. After Fiato prepared a Strawberry Alexander tableside, I realized there is no comparison. Not only do you get the pleasure of watching a skilled chef flambé some strawberries, you can also enjoy fresh strawberries sauteed in butter, honey, and strawberry liquor and served over homemade ice cream. Absolutely amazing.

The Italian Connection is definitely on my return list. And my return will be in the near future. **Next time I return, I'm going to bring a female. The mood is perfect for a date (either casual or dressy). And $25 will cover two meals, including salad and bread. Don't forget dessert.**

Um, Josh, got a quick question for you. When was the last time you went on date with a female?

Paige's Crossing

Location serves as affordable source of entertainment

Katie Corson
Writer

It is not uncommon to hear the following complaint from high school students in Fort Wayne: "there's nothing to do here." While seeing movies at Rave, going to Friday night football games, and hanging out at friends' houses are all fun activities, those activities can become repetitious and boring. However, alternatives can provide cheap and easy entertainment in the city.

Paige's Crossing is a fun place to go, though not many students know much about it.

Located at 2821 E. Business 30 in Columbia City, it is about a 15 minute drive Northwest of Fort Wayne.

Open at 9:00 a.m. every morning, Paige's Crossing closes at 8:00 p.m. Mondays through Thursday, 9:00 p.m. on Sunday, and 11:00 p.m. on Friday and Saturday.

The reason Paige's Crossing is a fun place to go with friends is because it has something for everyone.

For those who enjoy a little speed, there is a go-kart track. The cost is $4.75 for each ride, or three rides for $10.

If students want to see who has the best batting average, they should head for the batting cages. The cages take tokens, which are only four for a dollar. If neither the batting cages nor the go-karts sound interesting, give the miniature golf course a try. Miniature golf costs only $5 per round.

For $6.50, one can purchase a jumbo bucket of golf balls and make their way to the driving range. For students who are not interested in a jumbo bucket, a medium bucket is only $4.

Should it rain, the arcade is a fun place to play games. Most games take one to three tokens, which are the same as those used for the batting cages (four for a dollar).

With the tickets won playing arcade games, one can get fun prizes only found at arcades. Prizes such as bottles of disappearing ink, exploding golf balls, or stuffed cartoon characters can be won.

Paige's Crossing has also added a new climbing wall. With all of these activities, Paige's Crossing is able to offer something to interest any student, and all without having to spend a bundle.

photosjosh zurawski

A Adrenaline enhancing go-kart rides cost $4.75 per ride or $10 for three.

A putt is made on the miniature golf course, where one round costs $5.

So, how's the weather?

The Paige's Crossing website at www.paigescrossing.com is an easy to use, convenient source for price listings, party packages, up-to-date weather conditions, and coupons or discounts. Surf right before you leave to decide how to spend your time: putting, batting, driving, or in the arcade.

Andrew meredith
Age: 15
Instrument:
Trumpet

Victor Alvarado
Age: 17
Instrument:
Bass

Andy plank
Age: 20
Instrument:
guitar and vocals

jordan witzigreuter
Age: 14
Instrument:
drums

musical fusion

photos courtesy:
Jordan Witzigreuter

Larry Buchanan
Associate Surplus Editor

This appeared to be your everyday teenage garage (or in this case empty room) band.

In an upstairs room, in drummer Jordan Witzigreuter's house (you always practice at the drummer's house), is where it all happens. I'm speaking of the local band Take Sides, the recent winner of the whatzup magazine's "Battle of the Bands" contest.

They seem to be your typical "punk" band, and that was definitely my first reaction also. "Well, you guys are obviously punk," I said.

A murmur arose between the five band members, until one spoke up. "We're punk, but we're more of a mix between punk, hard-core, and ska," said guitarist Andy Plank. They generalize this "brand" of music to ska-core punk.

"Ska is a type of music that came before reggae," Plank said. "Our sound is a heavier sound, mixed with ska. Sublime would be an example of a ska band." Ska is often clumped in the same category as reggae.

But, this hasn't always been the setting for Take Sides. To understand the roots of the local band you have to go back to the summer of 2001.

You have to go back to the basement of bassist, Victor Alvarado. He and Plank were friends who skated together and soon realized that they had similar tastes in music. Not too long after the discovery, the band "The Misled Youth" was formed and they began writing songs. Now, all they needed was a drummer. They soon found one, but not too long after they lost this drummer, for reasons out of the bands control.

A friend of Plank and Alvarado filled the vacant drummer spot and the new band got right to work. They clicked immediately and recorder their first demo within three hours of the first practice.

The outlook for "The Misled Youth" looked good. During the summer, they played at various spots around Fort Wayne, and opened for the famous All Against I.

At this point "The Misled Youth" needed something more to add to their band to set it apart from others and move more in the direction the band wanted to go. Plank found this in another skater friend, Andrew Meredith. When Meredith talked about the fact that he played the trumpet, Plank knew he would be perfect to aid in the ska element of the band.

"Some ska bands have an entire horn section," Plank said. The addition of a horn player would only help shape the band more to where they wanted to go.

Along with the addition of Meredith, another change took place in the band; the name. Plank and Alvarado wanted to change the name of the band because "The Misled Youth" was "unoriginal and many other people had already used it," Alvarado said. The name Take Sides was finally agreed on.

After a few more months, yet another change in the now Take Sides lineup was in order. The drummer was asked to leave the band which yet again left a vacant seat in the drummer position. 14 year old Jordan Witzigreuter stepped into the position in January of 2004.

As the lineup stood, it was 20 year old guitarist Andy Plank, 17 year old bassist Victor Alvarado, 15 year old trumpet player Andrew Meredith, and 14 year old drummer Jordan Witzigreuter.

By March of 2004, the current Take Sides lineup (with the exception of the brand new sax player, Adam Fellon) entered the recording studio and recorded their first full length album, "The Last Transmission".

Something bigger and better had to be done after the creation of the album, to get the word our about the band to the public.

"I remember it well," said Plank. "We we're sitting in the kitchen and one of our friends from [the band] the Plane Crashers told us that we really had a shot to win the Battle of the Bands."

That's right, Battle of the Bands; the first annual Battle of the Bands, sponsored by whatzup magazine, x102.3, Ozone recording, and Columbia Street West.

Take Sides entered, along with 31 other local bands, and blew away the competition for 8 weeks of preliminary rounds and a semi-final round, before making it to the final round on August 19 at Columbia Street West. Three other bands competed in the final round, the Brown Bottle Band, Moser Woods, and Second Sun.

"We honestly didn't plan what we were going to do," Plank told whatzup. "We didn't think about winning, it was just 'let's put on a good show.' We didn't think we'd get this far."

"You don't have to be the most technical band out there," Alvarado told whatzup. "Just be yourself."

All these things definitely contributed to Take Sides win.

"Our live show is very energetic, I think that's what sets us apart from other bands," Alvarado said. "We don't just stand up their and play our instruments."

For winning, Take Sides received $2,500 cash, 30 hours of recording at Ozone Recording Company, six future bookings at Columbia Street West, $500 worth of promotional advertising in whatzup, a clothing sponsor, Catatonic Clothing, and they appeared on the cover of the whatzup magazine.

Now, with $2500 dollars, 30 hours of recording, and the addition of a new sax player, Take Sides is looking forward to recording a second album with more of a ska element, helped by the addition of the sax. Adam Fellon, 20, is the bands new sax player, who has been with the band for less than a month.

"Yea, I like it (being in the band)," Fellon said. "I like it."

As for a future for Take Sides, they would all like to do this for a career.

"I would love to just play music," Plank said. "I definitely don't want a day job, I just want to play music at night. We understand, too, that we don't have to be exclusively punk, or exclusively ska. We play what we think sounds good, and if it's a mixture of both we'll play it. But mostly we play because we have fun doing it."

The Band poses for a photo at a bus station. After winning Battle of the Bands, Take Sides received $2,500 cash, 30 hours of recording at Ozone Recording Company, six bookings at Columbia Street West, $500 worth of promotional advertising in whatzup, a clothing sponsor, Catatonic Clothing, and they appeared on the cover of *whatzup*. >>

<<Take Sides plays in the final round of the *whatzup* magazine's Battle of the Bands competition. After many rounds of competing, Take Sides won.

Upcoming Shows

For more information check out the Take Sides website at www.takesides.tk.

where: Bryan, Ohio skatepark
when: September 25
with: Cookiepuss
admission: not disclosed

where: Legend's Sportsbar
when: October 8
with: Tri-State Killing Spree
admission: $3 - $7

where: Columbia Street West
when: November 6th
with: Cookiepuss
admission: $3 - $4

where: Rock The Grounds, Noblesville
when: November 20
with: Many others
admission: TBA

Look for further performances at Columbia Street West and other locations around Fort Wayne. You can also buy the Take Sides CD!

the Spartana

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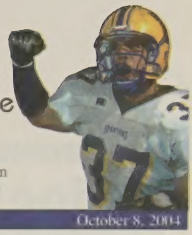
Spartan Renaissance

Dominating in September, the varsity football team wins four in a row



Homecoming week provides fun, spirited activities for students

Dillon Kimmel
News Editor

It is perhaps the most anticipated week of the first semester. Each day is a different dress day, and it all culminates into the most attended football game of the year, followed immediately by the Homecoming Dance.

This past week was the annual Homecoming week. Monday through Friday a different dress day was held, starting on Monday with Pajama Day. Tuesday was Tie Dye Day, followed by College Day on Wednesday. Capping the week off was Middle School Day on Thursday and Spirit Day today. Students who participated in these events were entered into a Spirit day drawing.

The Dirty Duckers dodgeball game was held Tuesday night at 7:00. In this annual event, the junior and senior girls squared off in a battle of wits as they try to knock over pins for points. The senior girls took home the victory in convincing fashion over the junior girls. The seniors had to use tactics in defeating the juniors because they were easily outnumbered.

Wednesday night was the Lip Sync Concert. The annual event features students who put on an act to a song of their choice. The song in it's entirety is played in the background while students dance and mouth the words. The concert was held in the school auditorium. Five acts were performed.

Thursday was the Fall Picnic. Held on the practice football field, hot dogs, chips, and cookies were sold for $1.50. School administrators and student government members prepared the food for the entire student body.

Tonight the football team will play Norwell in the Homecoming football game; easily the biggest crowd of the season is expected, with thousands of students and parents planning on filling the stands. Student Government will hold its annual Tailgate Party before the game. For $5, students can chow down on burgers and hot dogs. The Spartans go for their fifth win in a row. Their record currently stands at 5-2.

Afterwards, the Homecoming dance will be held until midnight. Held in the cafeteria, the dance will most likely be attended by the majority of the students who attended the game. The dance will cost $3 and student identification is required to attend.

Each year, students pack the stands to watch the game then pack the cafeteria to dance the night away. Over the years, the popularity of Homecoming has grown rapidly, greatly due to the tedious planning that goes into making Homecoming week a success. Student government members put in many hours to order the decorations and then decorate the cafeteria for the dance, organize the dress days, and run the pre-game tailgate.

Homestead tries out automated grading program for the state

Suhasini Bhargava
Co-Editor in Chief

Requiring participation from all teachers of English classes for juniors at this school, the Indiana State Department of Education has selected this high school as one of 38 schools to pilot Criterion, a computerized writing evaluation system developed by the Educational Testing Service. This pilot program has allowed English teachers of juniors to spend several days per semester in the computer lab to use Criterion for evaluating students' writing skills. Criterion registration for freshmen and sophomores has also been purchased.

"Indiana was the first state in the union to purchase Criterion for all of its freshmen students [class of 2007] last year," Criterion coordinator Jean Ehrman said.

Criterion has been developed to improve student writing by providing instantaneous feedback, scores, and suggestions for improvement. After students submit an essay on a specific topic, Criterion is able to grade the essay in less than 20 seconds. Scores from Criterion are based on a scale from 1-6. A 6 indicates excellence in regards to idea development, maintenance of focus and relevance of ideas to the topic, variety in diction and syntax, and accuracy in spelling, mechanics, and grammar usage. A score of 5 is less developed than an essay that receives a 6—a 5 might also lack transitions and have less accuracy in spelling and mechanics. A score of 4, 3, and 2 indicate that an essay is sufficient, uneven, and insufficient, respectively. A score of 1 shows that the essay failed to answer the prompt appropriately, had poor sentence structure, lacked transitions, contained several misspelled words, and displayed numerous instances of inaccurate grammar and punctuation usage.

Criterion can be used to evaluate writing for students in fourth and fifth grade, middle school, and high school. This system may also be used for placement in college classes, first year college classes, and second year college classes. The Education and Testing Service has established a list of various topics for students in each grade. Topics cover different styles of writing include persuasive, descriptive, expository, informative, and narrative writing styles.

"I think it [Criterion] has its benefits and its drawbacks," English teacher Abigail Just said. "The computer grades based on comparison and the essays are not read by a real person. The computer can't read enthusiasm and energy. It is very good for correcting grammar, structure, and repetition of words. It is also very convenient for judging the mechanical side of writing."

Criterion impacts students in the classes of 2006, 2007, and 2008 in several ways; so far, some juniors have written two essays for the Criterion program. Juniors will write four more essays, one each, in the months of January, February, March, and April. Freshmen and sophomores have written baseline essays, and teachers of ninth grade and tenth grade English will use Criterion as a common assessment for one portion of semester finals.

"We will be writing a total of six essays for juniors," Just said. "This program is really for preparation for writing on the [new] SAT and the CORE 40 test."

Individual teachers determine how significantly Criterion evaluations are factored into students' nine-week grades.

"At a department meeting we decided that it should count for a grade but we get to decide how to give points," Just said. "I have it set up so that nobody fails. If you get a score of 1, you might get a 70%."

The use of Criterion as a method of evaluation for writing skills allows consistency and objectivity in grading.

"This is as close as we can get to consistent grading of writing," Ehrman said.

The school's participation in the pilot program for Criterion allows students and teachers to use a standardized system for the evaluation of writing skills.

"I am very proud that Homestead was chosen as a pilot school," Ehrman said. "We're helping it [Criterion] get better. I am very enthusiastic about the pilot program."

see 5A for student response

Student Rotarians selected from junior class for first time in school's history

Larry Buchanan
Associate Surplus Editor

Typically, there are eight Student Rotarians in a year; although in the past all nominees have been seniors, but this year eight members from the class of 2006 will also be chosen.

Student Rotarians are students that are nominated by a teacher for outstanding citizenship and leadership, among other things.

"It used to be eight seniors that were, nominated and chosen by the staff based upon school citizenship, school leadership just good, nice representatives from Homestead High school," Beverly Wassouf, counselor said. "[Nominees don't have to be] necessarily the smartest or the most athletic or whatever, just all around students that teachers and administrators feel deserve the honor of being a Student Rotarian."

Rotary club is changing the program because there are more opportunities for juniors.

"The Rotary club is saying they are changing it to a junior program because there are quite a few leadership opportunities that Rotarians throughout the state sponsor and their feeling is if they get a senior it doesn't allow the some seniors after the training or the experience to come back to their high school or community and put it in action, some of them are leaving the community and definitely the school," Wassouf said.

The Student Rotarians for the month meet the Rotary club the second Monday of each month at a luncheon at the downtown Holiday Inn. They leave school at about eleven and stay until about one-thirty. The Rotarians are recognized at the luncheon and are the honored guests.

The Rotary club is a group made up of people from all around Fort Wayne.

"Rotary club meets every Monday on their lunch hour," Wassouf said. "The Rotarians are the professional the workers, they have real life jobs. It is a way to meet leaders employers of our community. They also have the option to learn about various leadership opportunities or programs that they as students can either apply for [or] participate in."

The basic point of Student Rotarians is for students to experience a Rotary meeting.

"Many of these young people will be Rotarians in their community because it is a service organization and they will be involved in service organizations," Wassouf said.

The nomination process is very simple. Every teacher and administrator receives a form explaining what to look for in a Student Rotarian and at the bottom is a place to nominate one junior and one senior. Wassouf usually receives between 25 and 30 nominations (25 – 30 juniors, 25 – 30 seniors).

Following the nominations, Wassouf then types up a list of all of the nominees on a ballot and places a copy in every teacher's, counselor's, and administrator's mailbox. Staff members can then vote for seven juniors and seven seniors to determine the Rotarians for the seven remaining months of school.

Because the program begins after school is in session, Wassouf doesn't have enough time to arrange the voting process until after the first months nominees are chosen. Therefore, Wassouf has always sent the person with the highest GPA for the first month. Neil Shah is the senior representative and Dan Panyard is the junior representative for the month of October.

In addition to voting for Student Rotarians, the staff also votes for the Daughters of then American Revolution Good Citizen (DAR).

"The reason [DAR and Student Rotarians] are tied to this process, this nominating and voting, is because the top [senior] vote getter is the DAR representative for Homestead," Wassouf said. "That person is our representative and I have a topic that is mailed to me by DAR. They have to write a timed essay under my supervision and that essay along with their application is submitted to the local group. And from that, in December an Allen county DAR good citizen is announced."

Whoever wins the DAR Good Citizen of Allen County has a chance to move on to state competition, which could lead to a scholarship.

"So it's two separate programs, but both groups are looking for really the same type of students so that's why I take the top senior," Wassouf said.

Next year, the Student Rotarian program will be a totally junior program.

"This is the only year that we will be doing Student Rotarians as a junior and senior thing," Wassouf said. "Next year it will be an exclusively junior program."

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S urplus

Next issue: Surplus and Botanical Gardens meet

issue 3 • the Spartana • October 8, 2004

Projects abundant in art, block classes

Sophomore block classes , two-dimensional art classes begin first semester assignments

Austin Hetrick
Writer

Throughout the school year, students look forward to the projects and special opportunities offered to them by their instructors. These long-term assignments often take weeks, and are conducted mainly out of class. Over the years at middle school and at the high school projects as exotic as Lego castles and beautiful paintings of all sorts have found their way into the class on special days.

Two of the many classes currently offering such projects are AP United States History/Honors English 10, (commonly referred to as sophomore block) and Beginning Two Dimensional Art.

These classes are very different at face value; one is an Honors and AP course, the other an advanced art. Both of these courses represent one way for students to receive the necessary credits for graduating with or without honors. What these classes also have in common is the fact that each concentrates the distribution of points heavily on long-term projects, mostly completed out of school.

In 2-D Art for instance, much of the planning and drawing takes place in the classroom. The final project may require extra-curricular work, but a student can get most of the work done in class.

"The purpose of this long-term research project meets numerous academic goals: to develop and apply research skills, to further understand a person and event which shaped history, to use creative writing skills, to further communication skills through role playing." This statement of goals is found on the first research assignment of the year for sophomore block students; the "Colonial Tea Party." This project is built around the events and individuals in American history from colonial times.

For this project the sixty-odd sophomores in block were assigned a figure from history and an event, and asked to create a piece of prose equal to three-five pages of text which will display the character's opinion of the event. Students will also participate in a "Tea Party" in mid-October in which they will "discuss [the] event and demonstrate [the] character's personality and life history. As an added bonus for the die-hard history buffs, extra credit will be granted to those students who attend in costume.

"We feel that this project really is a good measure of what students are capable of," AP History teacher Jim Schmidt said. "Each year we try to change our projects to match student input, events going on in the world, and what kind of technology is available to us."

Schmidt and his colleague of nearly one decade, Kathy de Calonne, have utilized this project for almost ten years. Students in past years have found the block projects to be difficult and time consuming, (Juniors this year may be seen sporting "I survived sophomore block" shirts) and this year's students are no different. Though sophomore block is considered one of the more rigorous courses offered at Homestead, most of the students will say it paid off in the long run.

"I think that it's a lot of work-and its pretty difficult, especially to do [simultaneously] with marching band, but I think the long-term effects will be beneficial," Leslie Holbrook (10) said.

Other classes are based around major projects as well. Beginning Two Dimensional Art is the beginning step in drawing offered at school.

"We've been drawing small items, and have focused on textures," David Hughes (10) said.

West, Hughes's instructor, has allowed her students to work outside the boundaries of the class by utilizing a long-term project featuring the architecture and scenes of Jefferson Pointe Mall.

"We draw images of buildings…it allows us to show what our impression of what we see is," Hughes said.

This particular project covers two weeks, and involves several drawings. All non-human items are allowed in the drawings, which adds an extra level of difficulty for the artists when it comes to removing people who may have been in the image that was being recreated.

Beginning Two Dimensional Art students have also completed such works as an impression of a hallway, and trees in an effort to enhance the artists' concept of texture. Unlike sophomore block, Two Dimensional Art is a single semester class; but for the students currently enrolled in it, the class offers plenty of challenges while they will take it. For students who love to draw, Two Dimensional Art is a must-take class, but for those who are not as gifted, it is a great start.

Second semester, an Advanced Two Dimensional Art class will be offered for students who have required the prerequisites. Advanced 2-D art elaborates on what Beginning Two Dimensional Art began.

Projects at Southwest Allen County Schools are an integral part of learning. In almost every class students take, they find themselves expected to participate in long-term, high-expectation assignments. The two classes and projects listed above are but a slice of the enormous effort that goes into long-term projects each year.

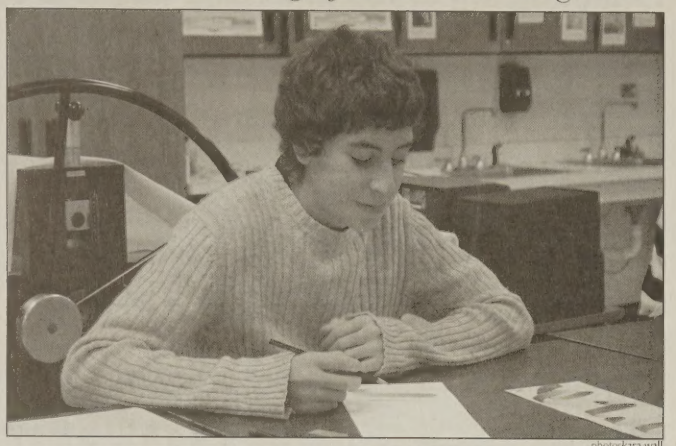
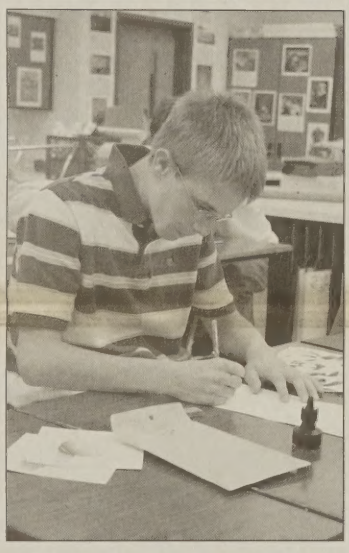
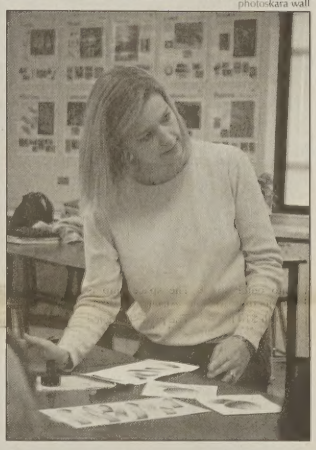


photo:kara wall





Clockwise: Scott Cicero (9) works diligently on his drawing for Beginning Two Dimensional Art. Trent Wilburn (9) plans out his drawing during class. Jennifer West gives assistance to a student on their drawing.

photo:zach hetrick

The impersonator of a Roman soldier shows off his gladius (sword) to a group of middle school students and Latin students. The presentation took place during first and second periods on Tuesday. He has been impersonating this Roman soldier for over thirty years. His goal has always been to spread the Latin language. The Junior Classical League made it possible for him to perform at school.

Clubbin' it up

Foreign language clubs readying themselves for another great year

Sarah Kennedy
Associate Sports Editor

America is known as the melting pot of the world, and foreign language clubs are a classic example of this diversity. The three dominant languages taught here exemplify the diversity and mix of cultures in the school. Several clubs provide an outlet for the creative minds of language students to share and learn, while exploring fun places around town and experiencing a new culture first hand.

Any student may join one of the clubs: Spanish Club, French Club, and JCL (Latin Club) by coming to meetings and paying a small fee of membership per year. The Spanish and French clubs charge $5.00 per member at the beginning of the year, and encourage students to attend as many meetings as possible.

The schedule is flexible, however, and a student can come as often or as little as he or she wants to. The JCL charges a yearly fee of $15.00 and students are also encouraged to participate in as many meetings as possible.

Each club has different activities available throughout the year for members to attend. The Spanish Club held its first meeting at "Mi Pueblo" restaurant on Wednesday, September 22.

The meeting was intended to be a "get to know each other" activity and started off the year with a festive dinner. Examples of other previous activities held by the Spanish Club include trips to Chicago, Wizards' games, donating time and money to charitable organizations, and buying Christmas gifts for less-fortunate children. They also provide the lip suckers during school on Valentine's Day. The Spanish Club will be meeting on October 14th at 2:50 P.M. to plan the next activity. Cooking authentic dishes after school is common for students to do throughout the year.

"We usually plan our activities based on the students' interests," Spanish teacher Angela Wood said. "If we try something that they like then we'll do it again, and we're open for ideas on new activities."

> "We usually plan our activities based on the students' interests. If we try something that they like then we'll do it again, and we're open for ideas on new activities."
>
> Angela Wood

Spanish club will be choosing leaders on October 14th at 2:15 p.m. The number of students involved so far this year has been similar to previous numbers from past years.

On Tuesday, JCL brought in an impersonator of a Roman soldier. He spoke to students about Roman legions and what it meant to be a legionnaire. He showed weapons and played ceremonial instruments from the time period.

The French Club held its first meeting on September 21st. Madame Butler taught ballet terms to students and showed them dance steps. Madame Butler teaches dance at Fort Wayne Ballet. The students also learned a French song by Natalie St. Pier. The French Club is planning a trip to Columbus, Ohio in the near future, as well as having a chef come to talk about French dishes. There are plans to hold a movie night and watch "The Triplets of Belleville" for one of the meetings. The French Club holds their meetings every month and welcomes new members. JCL holds practices every Thursday and Friday from 2:50-3:45 p.m. in order to prepare for the Certomen competition. The number of members involved this year is similar to past years.

In 2003 the club comprised 45 members, and last year it was composed of 53 members.

"I think the outlook for this year looks good, a lot of students that went to the State Convention last year are excited and want to go again," Latin teacher Kathy Adair said.

The year began when two state officers went to Indiana University in August for a two-day convention in order to plan the year. Soon after that, ten officers went to Paige's Crossing and then to Adair's lake cottage to reconstruct their constitution and plan for the year.

The first meeting was held as an ice cream social. The next meeting will be on October 13th at Shelley Gupta's (12) house from 7:00-8:15 P.M. Other events that are coming up include a trip to Casa restaurant and Julius Caesar play at the First Presbyterian Church on October 29th, and a trip to Brownsburg High School for President's Day on October 30th. During the trip to Brownsburg, students will participate in competitions and watch videos to get an overview of activities for the year.

All of the language groups are busy planning out their years, and are accepting any new members that are interested in joining. The schedules are filling up for an exciting year of cultural fun for students, teachers, and club members.

Global Briefs

CBS Files

CBS and Dan Rather showed a memo stating that our current President, George Bush, did not show up for military duty. Many sources are now claiming that the memo was forged;. Dan Rather later apologized.

Life Support Case

The Florida Supreme Court struck down a ruling that was to let Terry Shavo, a brain-dead woman, be taken off life support. While her husband feels that his wife should be taken off life support and given the chance to die a peaceful and more natural death; her parents disagree. They believe she should be given every chance at life no matter how slim. With no ability to express her personal opinion, Terry Shavo's case has ignited conflict.

Hurricane Jeanne

Emergency officials are working to aid victims of Hurricane Jeanne after the storm cut a fresh path of destruction across Florida. Jeanne killed at least six in Florida, destroyed homes, washed boats onto land, flooded roads and cut power to millions before moving into Georgia. This is the fourth hurricane to hit Florida this year.

Iraqi Elections

Although violence has escalated in the county, Iraqi elections are scheduled to be held on their original date.

Iraqi Prime Minister

Iraqi Prime Minister Ayad Allawi visited the United States to talk with President Bush on issues pertaining to his home country. Ayad Allawi claims that Iraq is improving, and that the US is a crucial partner in the war or terror.

Space Flight

SpaceShipOne, a civilian space shuttle took off from California and successfully landed after a brief trip into outer space. The space ship is competing for the Ansari X Prize, worth $10 million. The prize, modeled on aviation awards at the beginning of the 20th century, is designed to spur the private sector into building a space tourism industry. If SpaceShipOne wins the prize, then civilians will be allowed to take space flights starting at about $200,000. It is expected that 3,000 people will be able to fly within three years.

Martha Stewart

Martha Stewart will serve her five-month prison sentence for obstructing justice at a minimum security prison in rural West Virginia. Stewart, 63, has been ordered to report to a prison camp for women in Alderson, West Virginia, Stewart will begin serving her sentence no later than October 8. She was convicted in March on criminal charges of obstructing justice and lying to government investigators during an insider trading probe into her late 2001 ImClone Systems stock.

Mount St. Helens

Erupting for the first time in 18 years, Mount St. Helens, located in Washington, quieted down after spewing a plume of steam and ash briefly. Within hours of the eruption Friday, seismic readings suggested pressure was building again inside the volcano. It began rumbling last week, set off by small earthquakes occurring as often as three or four times a minute, and scientists say that there could be more steam eruptions soon.

Davis Cup

The USA tennis Davis Cup team, comprised Andy Roddick, Mardy Fish and Bob and Mike Bryan, who won their semi-final matches against Belarus. The match took place in South Carolina. This year, the team captain is Patrick McEnroe. Team USA will advance to the finals against Spain, in Spain, on clay. Also, Serena Williams won the China Open, defeating Wimbledon champion, Maria Sharapova. Roger Federer won the Thailand Open after defeating an injured Andy Roddick

35 killed in India

Two bomb blasts in Dimapur, India killed 35 people and wounded scores of others. A large explosion ripped through a train station in, where most of the casualties occurred. The other detonated at a nearby market.

Taj Mahal

On September 27, the Taj Mahal, located in India, celebrated its 350 anniversary. One of the seven wonders of the world, the Taj Mahal was built by Shahjahan Mahal, a Indian emperor.

Band receives gold at ISSMA

Spartan Alliance prepares for upcoming regional and state

Laura Summers
Writer

Heading towards the half-way mark of their season, the Spartan Alliance Marching Band is looking forward to its upcoming competitions.

After recently being defeated at the Greenwood Invitational by the defending state champions, Avon High School, the band has a new drive to work harder and do better. They expected Avon to be very good, so they knew they were going to be challenged.

"When Avon came into Class A last year, we were taken by surprise because it was our first year competing against them," flute player Jen Tharp (11) said.

The annual "We Believe" potluck will be held before the next contest. Here, band members and their families may come to the cafeteria and enjoy a generous lunch donated by families of several band members.

The next competition for the band was the ISSMA District competition, which was held at Northrop on October 2. This competition marked the half-way point in the band's competitions. The bands competing here included Snider, Huntington North, and Northrop. The band had already competed against both Northrop and Snider, however, they were definitely challenged at this contest.

As they prepared for competition, there was a great energy within the band. They performed successfully, taking home a gold, the highest rating possible. This rating enables the band to move on to the regional competition. The band was also successful enough to take home all the caption awards which included music, marching, best general effect, and auxiliary. All the other bands that competed will also move on to regionals.

Following the district competition, the Spartan Alliance Band will host the Homestead Fall Festival of Bands. During the band's practice, members will not be permitted to play their instruments because the practice field is right next to the performance football field. They will welcome rivals Avon, Snider, and Northrop, among others.

After performing in exhibition that day at their own contest, the band will travel to Wayne High School to compete in the Snider Invitational. Here they will see several bands they have already competed against many times.

"At this point in the season, everyone is getting really excited about regionals and state," Sam Fowler (10) said.

In fact, the regional competition at Carmel will be held on Saturday, October 16.

The week of practice is leading up to the regionals is always very serious and the dedication of every band member is easily seen. The directors and instructors greatly appreciate the leadership seen in the upperclassmen, especially the seniors, because it is their last year of band and the directors want them to experience the highest form of excellence they can reach.

If the band receives a gold rating at the regional competition, they will compete in the state finals at the RCA Dome in Indianapolis during the following weekend. If the Spartan Alliance Band makes it to state this year, it will mark the eighteenth year in a row that they have achieved this feat.

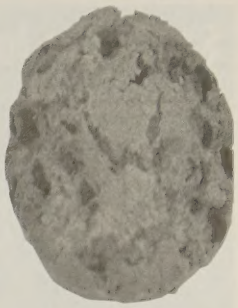
"I'm definitely looking forward to state this year," Tharp said. "We celebrate a lot during the week before the competition, and [on] the day of our performance we are so excited, and the bus rides down and back from Indianapolis are so much fun."

Making it to the state finals will signify all the hard work the band has done for the past three months. The crowd at the RCA Dome nears 20,000 and 30,000 people. Several graduates from the band program as well as graduates from all the other schools come to the Dome to cheer on their respective bands.

Indeed, the hard work the band members have put forth throughout their entire season, especially in the midst of tough competition, will be greatly evident in their final four performances leading up to the state finals at the RCA Dome in Indianapolis. State finals will be held on Saturday, October 23, 2004.

photo:zach hetrick

Madeline Shike (12) performs with the color guard at a marching band contest.



Cookie prices increase

Chocolate chip cookie prices change due to labor costs, cost of ingredients

Hunter Hall
Writer

Although many students are unaware, the prices of cookies in the cafeteria have increased by ten cents. Their original price of $0.40 was raised to $0.50 because the school was simply not making enough profit. The reason costs were raised to make profit was because of the increased cost of ingredients for making the cookies. The cost of cinnamon rolls that are available for purchase on Friday has also been raised from $0.75 cents to $1.00.

"Although some of the cost raise may be from ingredients, people are also part of the resources needed to maintain a product," economics teacher April Moss said. "The cost of labor must be taken into account."

The lunch ladies bake all of the cookies and cinnamon rolls themselves. So, not only is the cost going up because of the ingredients, it is going up because of the cost of bakers. It has not yet been determined whether this change in prices will affect the number of cookies purchased on a daily basis.

"I had no idea that they were raising the prices of these items," Jenica Griffiths (10), said. "I think that the price increase should have been more publicized, because I'm sure many of my friends don't know about it either."

Some students were unhappy with the raise in prices.

"I usually don't buy cookies that often, but for people who buy them almost everyday, that's a lot of money," Melissa Gillum (10), said. "Because if you think about it, $0.10 every day for the whole school year, and $0.25 every Friday adds up."

Many types of cookies are available during the three lunch mods. The varieties include, chocolate chip, peanut butter and chocolate chip, peanut butter, sugar cookies, snicker doodles, no bake, and chocolate.

Starting this school year, all varieties cost $0.50 instead of $0.40.

National Honor Society undergoes changes

Executive committee implements new policy, requires participation in projects

Austin Hetrick
Writer

The National Honor Society has helped reward and encourage student success at the high school and junior high levels for nearly a century; at this school, that tradition continues with the community involvement and academic achievement of student-members.

According to the constitution of the National Honor Society (NHS/NJHS), the purpose of the organization is to "create enthusiasm for scholarship, to stimulate a desire to render service, to promote leadership, and to develop character in the students of secondary schools."

These goals have stayed fresh in the minds of those committed toward academic achievement since the founding of the NHS in 1921. In Indiana alone, some 56 high schools have their own chapters, with membership in the thousands. Throughout the country in fact, there are roughly one million students involved. This chapter currently has some 160 juniors and seniors involved, with a growth of one third from last year's membership.

"I think National Honor Society is great," executive board member Sushma Jonna (12) said. "It is both fun and worthwhile academically."

> "I think National Honor Society is great. It's both fun and very worthwhile academically."
>
> Sushma Jonna (12)

Jonna and the other four members of the executive board help to organize the activities that the society sponsors, including the "Coffee Houses," which showcase student achievement in music and art. Other activities sponsored by the NHS include a breakfast for the custodians, and further community involvement.

Membership to the society is granted only to juniors and seniors. Students interested in the society are granted membership on several conditions: first, that they have a ten-point-zero or higher grade point average, second, that they are approved for membership by a teacher, and third, that they participate in organizing at least one of the activities sponsored by the society.

In 2004-2005 the NHS will grant 200 scholarships of 1,000 dollars each to members who are selected. For these particular scholarships, each chapter nominates two seniors to compete for the selection, and all nominated students receive certificates of merit. These scholarships, along with the many academic competitions (both national and state) that the NHS sanctions, make up the basic involvement of the society at the national level.

This chapter is represented by its sponsor, English Teacher Steve Clough, the executive board, and the 160 members. Full meetings are not usually held, however the executive committee meets regularly.

NHS is responsible for activities students look forward to all year, and it remains a well-respected academic group, both locally and nationally, almost a century after its founding.

NHS board member Sreeya Yalamanchali (12) presents proposal to department heads on Tuesday.

In review: Senator John Kerry and President George Bush participate in first presidential debate

Puja Parikh
Associate News Editor

President Bush (R) and Senator John Kerry (D) clashed over the Iraq war in the first presidential debate. Kerry stated that the Iraq war was a diversion from the more important war against al-Qaida and the president claimed that the war was crucial to the nation's security.

"The president has made, I regret to say, a colossal error of judgment, and judgment is what we look for in the president of the United States of America," Kerry said.

"Allies, are not going to follow somebody who says that this is the wrong war at the wrong place at the wrong time," Bush said.

The debate was focused only on terrorism and homeland security because after September 11, 2001, these issues have been first priority in the election.

All instant polls taken after the debate confirmed that John Kerry won the debate, and came out stronger. However, many people did think that George Bush did the best that he could.

"The camera caught George Bush off guard many times," George Stephanopoulos, anchor of ABC's *This Week with George Stephanopoulos* said. "He seemed a little angry, almost as though he didn't want to be there."

"This debate brought out the differing positions each candidate takes on the issue," Peter Jennings, the anchor of ABC's *World News Tonight with Peter Jennings* said.

There will be three more debates between President Bush and Senator Kerry, as well as upcoming debates between Vice President Dick Cheney (R), and Vice-presidential nominee John Edwards (D).

Students forget to wait turn in lunch lines

Cutting is unfair to those who wait, students should be more considerate

Javed Sayed
Opinions Editor

Everyday the cafeteria lines are brimming with people, and everyday the same problem arises: students are cutting in line. For students who stand patiently in line cutting can be an annoying, if not infuriating practice.

Most of the problem with cutting arises from the fact that the cafeteria monitors are possibly the most powerless authorities in school. Here's just about all that I've seen them do when someone skips ahead in line. They go up to the student and say, "you need to go to the back of the line." Perhaps school authorities think that this show of force scares the students into never doing again. Unfortunately, the opposite is true. In fact, I have witnessed students being sent to the back of the line, and then as soon as the monitors turn their head, the student cuts again.

> "I mean for some reason students seem to think that it is almost impossible for them to wait the extra two minutes to get their food by not cutting in line."
> Javed Sayed

Of course, I can't just blame the school authorities; the students are to be blamed as well. I mean for some reason students seem to think that it is almost impossible for them to wait the extra two minutes to get their food by not cutting in line. I guess it's okay in some cases. I bet some of the students who cut much have such a voracious appetite that it is impossible for them to wait their turn. So they must run to the cafeteria, cut in line, and then spend the next half hour eating. I say for those who fit into the above category, it's okay to cut. In fact, if these students don't cut they might die from hunger. Others students probably just like to sit down and talk to friends. I can identify fully with this group. I mean I think my extra thirty seconds sitting down at the lunch table will do so much for me, that it is almost an obligation to cut in line.

Then there are the students who justify skipping ahead in line by noting that five other people cut, then extrapolating that to mean that everybody must cut. Perhaps they don't realize if everybody actually did cut, they won't get their food any faster. Since the general populous of this school isn't very bright, this seems to be a distinct possibility.

There are two varieties of cutting that I am aware of. They are Chinese cutting and regular cutting. In Chinese cutting, a person cuts by going behind another person who allows them to cut. In regular cutting, a person gets to go in front of a person who they cut. When looked at objectively what I just wrote about cutting seems retarded. Similarly in practice cutting in line is also retarded, and transitively the people who cut are also retarded.

So what can be done to solve this problem? One possible way to alleviate the problem is to enforce the rules with heavy penalties. Say a lunch monitor catches someone cutting, if the student was to get a detention or some other harsher punishment, it would be doubtful that the student would have the nerve cut in line again.

Overall, cutting in line is an infuriating practice, and as of now little is being done to sop it. If our school really wants to stop cutting in line, they will have to enforce harsher punishments for offenders.

Javed Sayed is a junior and works as the Opinions Editor for the Spartana. *The views and opinions expressed in this editorial do not necessarily represent those of* the Spartana *or of its staff.*

Words from the cafeteria

> "It makes me mad when people cut in front of me and it takes longer than it should for me to get my food."
> Danny White (10)

> "If you actually try to stand in line, you end up getting five minutes to eat."
> Kinsey Paul (11)

> "I don't mind people cutting in line because everybody does it."
> Katie Yarnell (9)

> "I think that cutting in line is very dishonest and it may seem like a petty thing to students but it hurts people's feelings and it really is a big deal."
> Sheila Clay, lunch monitor

photo/josh zurawski

^ Students stand in the Italian line during B lunch. The 'grab and go' lunch line is often plagued by students cutting in. On a daily basis, many students fail to be polite; instead of joining the line at the end, many cut with their friends.

ISTEP+ week worthless, uneventful for upperclassmen

Juniors and seniors should be allowed to stay at home during testing hours

Kelly Childs
Writer

As a junior this year, I was relieved of the task of taking the ISTEP tests, but I was not relieved of the monotonous week that ISTEP bestows upon this school. While the sophomores, and now even freshmen, were listening to proctors saying phrases like "make the mark heavy and dark" or "when you see the stop sign at the bottom of the page, stop", I was sitting in a classroom staring at a huge packet of math problems.

On Wednesday I sat in a math SAT preparation class for three hours. I was handed a 60 page packet, the teacher said I am in the back of the room if you need anything, and I was expected to do the problems to help me prepare for the SAT test. I sat in a classroom thinking "why am I here? I did not sign up for this class. I had no choice. I was told to come here."

Sure, every junior and senior was given a form to fill out indicating their top four choices, but were those papers even used in the process of assigning classes? I do not think they were, because I was assigned the math SAT preparation class two days in a row. I had the same class, same teacher, and everything. Was I seriously expected to sit through the same thing two days in a row? Was I expected to be handed the same exact packet and do the same exact problems two days in a row? Maybe it is just me, but I do not think that would do much good. I was not the only one with this slight discrepancy. As I talked to other people in the math class, I found over ten other people who were in the math class two days in a row, with the same teacher for both days.

You would think I would have been allowed to be transferred into a study hall, but when I visited student services after seeing the problem, I was informed that nothing could be done and the schedules were all final (not that being in a study hall would have been much better anyway). What would I have done in a study hall? I had no homework. The teachers were not allowed to advance the curriculum in any way during ISTEP testing, so I would have been sitting twiddling my thumbs for three hours, instead of repeating the problems in a math packet I had done the day before.

> "Was I seriously expected to sit through the same thing two days in a row? Was I expected to be handed the same exact packet and do the same exact problems two days in a row?"
> Kelly Childs

That's another thing; teachers were not supposed to advance the curriculum during ISTEP week, so what were they supposed to do during classes? I understand fifth, sixth, and seventh period would have had an advantage over the other classes if teaching continued, but why must we even go to the classes. I had additional study halls in five of my classes, but like I mentioned before, I had no homework to do because teaching was halted. For three days, I went to school at sat for more than six hours learning nothing related to the classes I was in. It may seem like I am complaining, but to me I felt like my life was being wasted. I was doing nothing productive the whole school day.

Since the problem affected juniors and seniors who are planning for their futures and are starting to look at careers and colleges, I think during ISTEP week they should be excused from school and allowed to pursue their research further. This year all juniors and seniors were giving the opportunity to visit a college or job shadow on Tuesday, but I think this option should have been extended to include Wednesday and Thursday as well. This is a practical suggestion, because most college that students visit are not in town. Schools like Indiana University take several hours of traveling, making the visit a full day. Most colleges also recommend an over-night visit to truly get the feeling of dorm life. If juniors and seniors were allowed to have three days for college visits or jobs shadows during ISTEP week they would be able to go on an over-night visits without taking an absence. Next year, if I am allowed to do something worthwhile with my time for three days instead of one, I will be a much happier camper.

Kelly Childs is a junior and works as a writer for the Spartana. *The views and opinions expressed in this editorial do not necessarily represent those of* the Spartana *or of its staff.*

No Child Left Behind Act lacks funding

Execution of act fails to uphold original objectives

Jim Katz
Writer

When President George W. Bush proposed the No Child Left Behind Act, three days after taking office, his goals sounded like a step in the right direction. But through a lack of funding, a federal grab for control over education, and the most troubling, an inappropriate benchmark set for many students, his policy of leaving no child behind and has become contradictory to its own name.

The No Child Left Behind Act (NCLBA) was one of the first proposals made by President Bush after being sworn in. He wanted "To close the achievement gap with accountability, flexibility and, choice, so that no child is left behind." This phrase was later used to begin the actual legislation passed by the republican-controlled congress almost a year later. Major changes in educational policy included required standardized testing every year for grade 3-8 (in Indiana, the ISTEP+), the monitoring on a national level of "failing schools", and the option of relocation for students attending "failing" schools. All of these proposals appear beneficial on the surface, but upon deeper research, the flawed logic of these policies can clearly be seen.

The first major flaw is the lack of federal funding. After requiring all states to have standardized tests every year for grade 3-8 that meet federal regulations by the 2005-2006 school year, provide busing for students to transfer from a failing school, along with many other new requirements, the federal government is providing little money to help states fund these requirements. Most of the money must come from state and local governments, though the standard is federally required, making it an unfunded mandate.

The second major problem is the power shift to the federal government. While having a national educational standard has advantages, history shows that such policies lead to corruption. In February, Utah's House of Representatives refused to accept the NCLBA and federal funding for NCLBA because it was an "unfunded mandate." The federal government was quick to send representatives of the Bush administration and the Department of Education to Utah and threatened to cut all federal funding for education, even funding unrelated to NCLBA. In Stalin's Russia and Hitler's Germany, nationally mandated education allowed them to create obedient servants of the state. History has shown us that nationalized education can lead to corruption in the educational system.

The final and most troublesome problem of the NCLBA is the inappropriate benchmarks set for all students. According to the NCLBA, "The academic standards required...shall be the same academic standard that the State applies to all schools and children in the State." This policy neglects the educational needs of two large groups of students, the learning disabled and the academically gifted.

For those with severe learning disabilities, the government makes exceptions, but students with mild to moderate learning disabilities have the same academic benchmark as the average students. This one benchmark creates two problems. First, it brings down the scores of schools on standardized tests, possibly causing "passing" schools to become "failing." Also the NCLBA puts potentially unrealistic expectations on students with learning disabilities. Parents and teachers of students with learning disabilities would love to see the students meet the academic standards of the average students, but that requirement is simply unreasonable for many of these students.

Academically gifted students are also being neglected by the NCLBA. When a standard is set that all students must meet, the upper end of the spectrum is often ignored. A great deal of money, which in the past was used to fund gifted education, is now being cut to fund the NCLBA requirements. Students are encouraged to simply meet standards, not to excel to their full potential, stifling the academic progress of many gifted students.

The No Child Left Behind Act is a piece of legislation with worthy ideals that (on the surface) sounds like it works to improve the education system in America. The broad concept is not problem; rather, the faults lie in the details and consequences in funding and control over education. The goal should not be to standardize students but to help each student reach his or her ultimate academic potential.

Jim Katz is a junior and works as a designer for the Spartana. *The views and opinions expressed in this editorial do not necessarily represent those of* the Spartana *or of its staff.*

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Criterion: hit or miss?

New pilot program Criterion threatens to replace "hand-grading." The editorial board members express opinions about computer's ability to grade writing

Suhasini Bhargava
Co - Editor in chief

Modern technology is discovering new boundaries and exploring new dimensions; today, human evaluation of thinking processes and efficacy of communication is being replaced by machine evaluation of similar tasks. After researching about the Criterion system online and making observations, I fail to place faith in its ability to grade students' writing skills. Although Criterion may be able to judge syntax and spelling, I do not understand how a computer can comprehend and determine the development of an idea. Regardless, my basis for being critical of Criterion does not lie in my skepticism of a machine's ability. I may not understand how a computer can evaluate the development of an idea, but I will believe Criterion's assertion. I am critical of Criterion because I found a grammatical error in one of the essay prompts; for a system that grades others' mechanical errors, this one does not adhere to its own standards.

The prompt titled "Your School" ends with the following sentence: "Write the essay so that a reader who knows nothing about your school will be able to "see" it in their mind." The usage of the word "their" is incorrect-- the word should be replaced with "his" or "his/her" because the possessive pronoun should be singular rather than a plural "their." If the prompt used the word "readers" instead of "reader," the usage of "their" would be appropriate and correct. Before a program attempts to provide feedback for students on improving writing skills, its creators should provide mistake-free prompts for students. Perhaps, we should wait before allowing machines to grade student essays. Last time I checked, my English teachers did not make blatant grammatical and mechanical mistakes.

Josh Zurawski
Co - Editor in chief

The idea of having an automated grading system for something so subjective is silly. It boggles my mind that students across the state could be subjected to such nonsense.

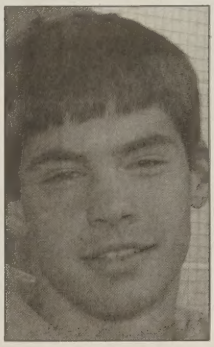
Each student has their own writing style. Computers cannot fully decipher style from incoherent babble. Since the beginning time teachers have been hand-grading their students' work. Scantrons are perfectly acceptable because they only work for totally objective questions. They save time. Automated grading on student-written material may save time, but grades will not be accurate.

Besides accuracy deficiencies, cheating is plausible and probable. Any adept student will recognize what the computer wants to see, and adjust their writing style accordingly. Since the student would be taking advantage of the automation, one could deem those actions fraudulent.

My writing skills have drastically improved during my tenure at school, due largely to the fact that I have had wonderful English teachers who recognize my weaknesses. The human perspective each teacher offers cannot be duplicated.

If the state institutes Criterion for ISTEP, scores will be skewed due to cheating and its inability to grade on content. Plus, how can a poor school pay for computer labs so they can use Criterion?

Every English teacher's responsibility is to grade their students' writing, coach when mistakes are made, and use the degree they earned. Automated grading will be the downfall of high school education. Writing is an essential tool in today's world; the skills have always been and should be learned at the high school level.



Dillon Kimmel
News Editor

I'll admit I took the Criterion test a little begrudgingly. The prompt asked us to write about our school and include a description of everyday life at Homestead. It was annoying, but I felt like I did a sufficient job. Then I learned how it was graded. In just a few moments, the computer could literally grade the essay. It was supposed to be looking for spelling and mechanics, as well as the flow of ideas. I got a perfect score, a six. As it turns out the system may be flawed.

It was just too suspicious. The system had to be tested. All that needed to be done was to find a random, lengthy article and paste it into the space available for the essay in order to fool the grader. Yes, it was really tested this year. A student tried this, proving the system grades not on content but the sentence structure, punctuation and length alone.

It makes sense, though. How could a computer possibly "read" an essay. It couldn't. All it can possibly do is check grammar-related material. I cannot believe that students are exposed to nonsense like this. I mean, come on. It is an insult to our intelligence to make it so blatantly easy to cheat.

The aspects of human grading obviously cannot be replaced. Teachers' input on a student's paper is vital to the success of the student.

Even if the Criterion program is not grading strictly on content, a student should not be able to simply copy useless information into a box and get a perfect score. More thought should be put into the grading system. The student who tested did write a legal, legitimate essay to be graded afterwards. He was sincere in writing another, but other students may not be. Something needs to be done.

Christy Landrigan
Surplus Editor

English class was once a safe haven where students like me breathed deep sighs of relief after all the definite answers of math and science class. English, literature, or composition class meant that I could contentedly command the shades of gray that are involved in interpretative writing. I, like countless others, thrive on the opportunity to be observant and interpret.

Criterion, a computerized internet essay grading system, is a part of some English courses offered at this school. Under the No Child Left Behind Act, academic progress must be monitored for the school system to continue to receive rewards and funding, so Criterion is being used on a trial run this year to assess how well the system works.

The attempt to make objective a completely subjective skill through computerized grading of compositions is ludicrous. One cannot rate the works of Picasso or DaVinci objectively; neither should the art of writing be graded as such. Instead, the focus should be on quality, which can only be accurately judged from a human's (English teacher's) perspective.

Criterion may have potential. Quite probably, it can catch spelling and grammatical errors, but, often, computers catch "errors" that are correct. I have no reason to believe that Criterion will not penalize students for mistakes that do not exist. The idea that a computer is a good judge of clarity, syntax, and style is absurd.

If state legislators need methods to measure student progress, they should reference ISTEP+ scores or Core 40 exams instead of putting students through a process that cannot possibly calculate the caliber of communication and comprehension expressed by human creativity in writing.

Matt Anderson
Sports Editor

Writing, like any good piece of art, is something purely subjective--created by each person individually with that person's personal fingerprints worked into the core of the paper.

And yet, the school wants to set a criterion that will be the basis for grading every student's English work.

That means a non-thinking, purely objective machine will be grading every students strictly subjective writing. How can the computer distinguish between two completely-both equally correct-styles? It can't.

Then people can say that the rules of grammar are very structured and concrete, and this claim is true. But, after one learns the rules of grammar one is free to break the rules when they understand that the rules are wrong in this situation. Will the criterion grader know when it is okay to break a rule? I doubt it.

When typing with Microsoft Word the grammar corrector always gives very helpful hints scattered throughout the paper. Unfortunately, up to half of these "corrections" are actually mistakes that are trying to use grammar rules in places that they don't necessarily apply.

So, how can they guarantee this knew criterion won't be correcting the already correct?

A set answer key for every single essay does sound pleasing, but I don't feel comfortable handing over a subjective job to an objective grader just yet.

Although grading essays as math tests would be much more time sufficient, I believe that with the gaining of time, we lose something much greater: the ability to get real feedback and real help with our work, instead of receiving answers back from an inanimate object.

$tudents are uninformed

For students, parents, and members of the community, each project or suggestion proposed by an organization affiliated with Southwest Allen County Schools raises the following question: where is the money coming from? Because this school district does not receive as much aid from the state government as it has in previous years, members (including students) of this district are particularly concerned with how the school district's money is being used. While many students are critical of the random drug testing because the proposal costs $504,000 to operate, few students realize that the funds that make the project a reality have been acquired through donations and grants. Funds devoted to the school district and to the school are not being used to conduct drug tests. Similarly, when arguing that the "school" wastes a considerable amount of money on pampering athletes while ignoring academic interests, students often use the following argument: "The school spent more than $500,000 on the new football field but we barely have money to purchase new books and raise teachers' salaries." Once again, students are misled by ignorance because few realize that certain types of funds may only be used for fulfilling certain goals. For example, the general fund is used for paying for operating costs, paying for teachers' salaries, administrators' salaries, and benefits for both teachers and administrators. Approximately 88% of the general fund is devoted to teachers' salaries, while the remainder of the fund pays for supplies, materials, utilities, and insurance. The debt service fund pays for the building of new schools such as the new elementary school and the new middle school. The capital project fund satisfies costs for athletic facilities, heating, and ventilation. The football field expenses were paid for from funds from the capital projects fund. Further, the new technology acquired in the math department as well as funding for the new carpet and ceiling tiles in the math classrooms was attained from Woodside's unused funds this year, that were to be used for a similar purposes. In order for funds to be transferred from one fund to another, a referendum must be passed.

> *"...few students realize that the funds that make the project a reality have been acquired through donations and grants."*

This division of the funds illustrates that certain funds must be used for specific projects. Students are misinformed when they claim that funds used for the astro-turf football field could have served other purposes. Before students speak out against the dispersal of Southwest Allen County Schools's funds, they should become educated and informed. **Editorial Board Vote: 4 For 1 Against**

Weighted grades: a necessity or an unfair advantage?

Students face off to debate whether or not weighted grades are appropriate

Neil Shah
Writer

We have access to a variety of advanced classes here. With a strong Advanced Placement program and a number of honors courses that prepare us for those AP classes, our academic program is one of the strongest in Fort Wayne. The students that take these challenging courses, however, do not deserve any help in the form of weighted grades for those classes. My assumption is that of any group of students at our school, those that take advanced classes need assistance the least because they are already academically talented enough to take higher-level classes. If they weren't confident enough to take the harder classes and get good grades in them, then why did they take them in the first place? I suppose that's because there is something inherently wrong with a class that doesn't have the honors or AP label and that those classes are too easy.

Weighted grades undermine the very basis on which the honors and AP programs work. Without weights, only students who want to learn extensively about a certain subject and can handle the pace enroll in those classes. With weights, however, students would be encouraged to take the class because a worse grade in the harder class is equivalent to a better grade in a normal class, and on top of that, the advanced class will look good on their transcript. The problem with this type of incentive is that it can attract students that cannot handle the pace at which an honors or AP class operates, and the teacher may slow down the class to accommodate those students.

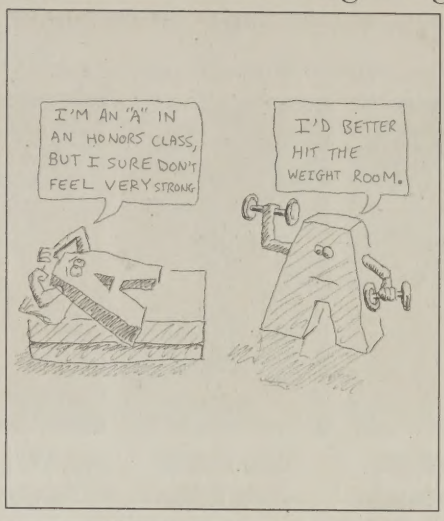
Another reason weighted grades are detrimental is because competitive students would be discouraged from taking classes they might otherwise want to take. Since these classes aren't honors or AP, their grade points for the same letter grades would not be equal to those of advanced classes. At the high school level, a diverse education is critical. How can a student possibly achieve this diversity with classes in only advanced math, science, English, and social studies? With such a competitive student body, it would be a shame to see that taking a normal class would jeopardize a student's class rank.

On top of being unfair, weighted grades have already been rendered unnecessary. The majority of advanced classes here have adjusted grading scales that are more forgiving than the standard scale, on which most normal classes (except for math) are graded. Some of them are graded on the math scale, and some are graded on a scale that is between the math scale but easier than the standard scale. It is appalling to see students in advanced classes argue for weighted grades when most of the advanced classes they take have already made it easier than normal classes to get higher grades.

I agree with one benefit of weighted grades. With them, a student who did not challenge himself in high school and got A+s in normal classes would have a low chance at being valedictorian, salutatorian, or simply ranked highly. Not many valedictorians and salutatorians in this school's history, however, have been students that took mainly normal classes. It is no coincidence that the students that challenge themselves are also those that get the best grades, but once in a while that exception arises to spite the system. No system is perfect and this exception is an example of the current system's imperfections. Also, in the real world there are many situations that are unfair and many systems that can be taken advantage of. For instance, friendships and politics almost always influence who gets the promotion and who gets laid off in the workplace. Undoubtedly, there are people who find ways to take advantage of flaws in the system for their personal benefit, and that's exactly what those students are doing by taking normal classes and getting A+s in them. Although I do not support nor give these students credit for achieving such a high rank in the class, I accept that the system has flaws and that these students represent them. I realize that I will have to work harder in advanced classes to keep a competitive class rank against these students, but I am not about to advocate a system that will pump my rank over theirs because I am in advanced classes.

The current system is not perfect, but it is preferable to a system with weighted grades. It is shameful and unfair that students take advantage of the flaws in the current system and steal ranks that they do not deserve. But life is unfair, and it is about time we started to get used to it.

Neil Shah is a senior and works as a writer for the Spartana. *The views and opinions expressed in this editorial do not necessarily represent those of* the Spartana *or of its staff.*



LOOK AT ME! I'M SO RIPPED I CAN CARRY THIS "PLUS" AROUND WITH ME
NOW WITH MY NEW FOUND STRENGTH I CAN BEAT UP LESSER "A"S!
NORMAL CLASS

cartoonsevan childers

TEACHER INPUT

"Weighted grades, I'm just against them. I think it's a cool idea, but I just don't think it's fair to say that this class is worth more than that class. How do you determine which class is worth more? What's the standard going to be? Is it just AP classes that will be weighted, or can one teacher, for example, decide that his or her class is worth more than another class?

German teacher Daniel Jaegar

Christy Landrigan
Surplus Editor

Life isn't fair. Get used to it now.

It is time that this school acknowledges this fact by weighting grades of AP, ALPHA, and Honors courses.

Some people are destined to be more successful than the rest of the population; from the moment they are created, they begin on a life journey to become the leaders and money-makers of the world. The rest of the population cannot hope to compete with the intellect and ingenuity of these types of people in the real world. It is therefore unreasonable to assume that all students are of equal ability through equal credit given for the same letter grade; an A in a normal level class has the same significance as an A one of the most difficult, time consuming, and challenging courses at school, AP Economics. Further, both classes are on the same grading system with a ninety-nine percent A+. When AP Economics requires outlining and homework assignments every night, about an hour's worth of work, in addition to outside-the-box critical and analytical thinking, compared to a normal economics class requiring little to no homework or brainwork, it seems absurd that the students in each course are given equal credit for the work they put forth. This system is not an accurate representation to students of the functions of the real world.

Students need to learn now that work ethic and effort are what count, not simply capability. Upon the transition from middle school to high school, I was shocked to realize how many capable, intelligent friends of mine were neglecting to enroll in any challenging classes whatsoever. This lack of effort disappointed me because I know that they will not be as well prepared for the high intensity of college studies or the real world. Maybe if there had been some sort of mechanism in place to dissuade them from taking the easy way out by enrolling in low-in classes and maintaining their class ranks through little effort, they would be more prepared to take on the challenges of life after high school. Instead, they are disillusioned into thinking that appearances are the only important factor in determining success or grossly wrong assumption in almost any other facet of life after high school is over. I know, though, that these capable slacker students will not be ready to face this reality and that it will instead hit them like a brick wall because our school does not currently prepare students for later challenges by their lack of encouragement that students challenge themselves with their class options. To the contrary, taking the easy, rewarding way out is a logical and possibly vital decision, especially when applying for scholarships, many of which are based on grade point average and class rank. Our school seems to be working against some of its brightest and best students.

The life lesson that life is not fair is one which students will quickly learn upon graduation from college when they are seeking employment. An ivy-league education is undoubtedly of more significance to a potential employer than that of a state school. Fortunately, there is no numeric value calculating the comparative caliber of the two schools, unlike the grade point average system in high school. It puts the best students in the hardest classes against people they should easily be able to surpass in later life and accomplishments. It makes sense to think that an honors program would mean more than a normal one. Sadly, the numbers do not support this logic, pushing deserving students out of the higher rankings in the class, often disqualifying them from being eligible for most academic scholarships. There is no reward for choosing to better one's education through the decision to have a demanding course load.

Though an average student may slip through the holes of the system fairly often by achieving higher rank than an AP student, it is an encouraging fact that most of our top ranked students are those involved in challenging classes. This proves the motivation and capabilities of an elite group of students, but, still, the school is pandering to the wrong set of students by failing to weight grades. One would hope that they would desire to better our student body and school system by varying the course options; however, shrewd students are encouraged to choose to take regular level classes in favor of increasing their class standing.

Currently, the grading system takes for granted the fact of inequality. It is unrealistic and downright misleading to students enrolled in regular level courses who believe that they will have an equal and fair chance in the working world to compete with students who have better credentials on their resumé, such as a more difficult course load. The system with unweighted grades is an insult to high-caliber students who choose to enroll in demanding classes.

photosjack rozman

Christy Landrigan is a senior and works as the Surplus editor for the Spartana. *The views and opinions expressed in this editorial do not necessarily represent those of* the Spartana *or of its staff.*

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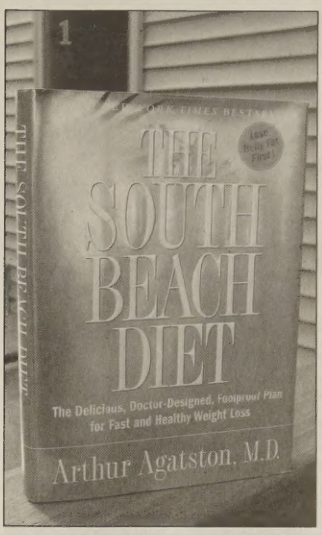
The Spartana is a biweekly production of the Journalism 3/4 class at Homestead High School. Its purpose is to enlighten, educate, and entertain. *The Spartana* has and may continue to operate as a limited open forum for the free exchange of ideas.

Profanity may appear in *the Spartana* with the approval of the advisor, but only in cases of direct quotations or if it is necessary for clarity. Material which is libelous or obscence and could cause substantial and material disruption, as defined by the Supreme Court, will not be printed.

Public input will be accepted in the form of letters to the editor. Letters must follow standards concerning liable or obscenity. Those which could cause substantial and material disruption, as defined by the Supreme Court will not be printed.

Staff members of *the Spartana* support the First Amendment rights and oppose censorship in any form. The content of the paper is determined by the student staff. In cases of potentially controversial material the editorial board will meet to decide the content of the newspaper. Students will be assisted by the advisor in areas of professional ethics and legalities.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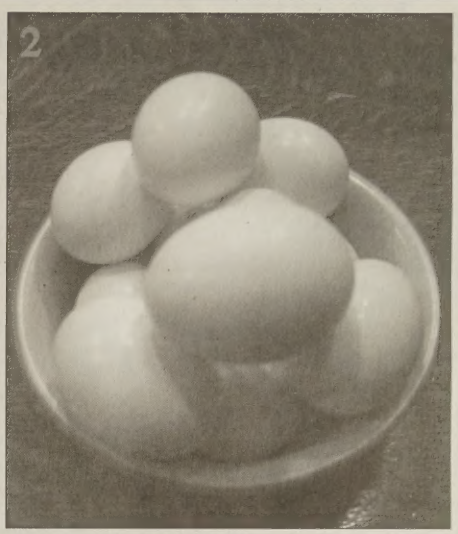
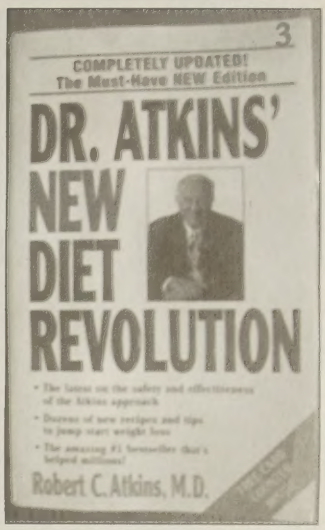
THE SOUTH BEACH DIET
The Delicious, Doctor-Designed, Foolproof Plan for Fast and Healthy Weight Loss
Arthur Agatston, M.D.





Dueling Diets

Looking into different unique qualities possessed by two of today's popular diets

Katie Corson
Designer

Instead of bringing the end of the world through nuclear war, the turn of the century has dawned a new era of dieting. Today, one nearly has to be living under a rock in order to avoid counting carbohydrates.

Of all the different diets today, the South Beach Diet and the Atkins Diet seem to be among those of greatest popularity. While both have distinct differences and similarities, they promise the same results; weight loss, increased energy, and overall better health.

Created by doctors, both diets were designed with the same purpose in mind.

Dr. Arthur Agatston, a cardiologist in Miami, Florida, saw many patients with unhealthy levels of cholesterol and insulin. He wanted to develop an eating plan that would be healthy, as well as reduce the risk of heart disease. The result was what is known today as The South Beach Diet.

Dr. Robert Atkins had a similar objective in mind when developing the Atkins Diet. He focused on a diet that would help those facing diabetes, heart disease, and hypertension.

Since both diets were designed with the same objective and promise the same results, it is not surprising to find that they are very similar.

Both diets use a phase system. The South Beach Diet has three phases, while the Atkins Diet has four.

The first phase of both diets is labeled the "induction" phase. Lasting two weeks (for both diets), dieters are expected to see substantial weight loss during this time. In the induction phase, all carbohydrates are removed from the diet, but are re-introduced at a slow rate later on.

During the induction phase of the Atkins Diet, meals consist of foods such as meats, poultry, seafoods, eggs, cheeses, oils, butter, margarine, bacon, and sausages.

Dieters are limited to only 20 grams of carbohydrates during this phase. Those 20 grams come in small amounts from foods such as sauces, dressings, cheeses, and some lettuce or vegetables.

Dieters are also not allowed to have any milk, fruits, grains, cereals, breads or high glycemic index vegetables (potatoes, peas, corn and carrots are examples of high glycemic index vegetables).

For South Beach dieters, lean meats (chicken, turkey, fish, shellfish), low glycemic index vegetables (beans, broccoli, lettuce, mushrooms, tomatoes), and low-fat cheese, nuts, and eggs are all emphasized during the induction phase.

For those following the South Beach Diet, the second phase is when the reintroduction of fruits, starches, and milk occurs. Dieters start out having a single serving of fruit and starch daily, which gradually increases to three of each daily.

For the Atkins Diet, the second phase is for the slow reintroduction of carbohydrates. Dieters are allowed to add only five grams of carbohydrates to their diet each week. In additions, one can begin eating more salad and vegetables, fresh cheeses, seeds and nuts, berries, starchy vegetables, and some whole grains.

For the South Beach Diet, the third phase is the "weight maintenance" stage. Dr. Agatston describes the weight maintenance phase as a "way of life." It should be used to maintain a healthy weight. Should one's weight begins to climb, Agatston says to simply repeat the diet plan.

The third phase of the Atkins Diet is known as the Pre-Maintenance. Though short, this phase is considered the most crucial phase. This is when dieters prepare to internalize the eating habit that they will follow for the rest of their lives.

The fourth and final phase of the Atkins Diet is known as the maintenance phase. Like the South Beach Diet, this phase is meant to last for the rest of the dieter's life. Dr. Atkins states that if dieters are able to follow the fourth phase, their weight problems are history.

The biggest similarity between the two diets is that both require the removal of all unhealthy carbohydrates, as well as processed and refined foods of all kinds.

Exercise is also a major factor whether one is following South Beach or Atkins. Doctors have known for years that exercise burns calories, promoting further weight loss, as well as better overall cardiovascular health.

South Beach and Atkins have many similarities, in respects to the foods one is allowed to eat and the steps. The main difference between the diets is the fact that the South Beach Diet focuses on low carbohydrates intake as well as low fat intake.

So overall, doctors today are more concerned with providing Americans with long term better eating habits. Whether one chooses Atkins or South Beach, it is less about a way to drop an extra ten or fifteen pounds and more about a having a healthier lifestyle.

South Beach Diet Recipe (Induction Phase)

Breakfast -
-6 oz. vegetable juice cocktail
-Eggs Florentine
-2 slices Canadian bacon
-Decaffeinated coffee or tea

Snack -
-Celery stuffed with light cheese

Lunch-
-Chef salad on mixed greens

Snack-
-10 cherry tomatoes with low fat cottage cheese

Dinner-
-Orange Roughy in scallion sauce
-Steamed snow peas
-Shredded cabbage in olive oil

» 1. The South Beach Diet book gives dieters all the information they need. 2. Protein is the main food in both diets. 3. The Atkins Diet book was first published in the 1970s. 4. Ice cream, milk, white rice, and bread all are foods one on either diet should not eat. 5. Bacon, cheese, tomatoes, and eggs are all important parts of both diets. These foods provide protein.

Other Accolades

Daniel Panyard (11) and **Neil Shah (12)** were nominated as the Student Rotarians for the month of October. A complete story on Student Rotarians is available on page 1A.

Jessica Bissell (11) was selected as a semi-finalist for the *Anthem* essay contest. Bissell's essay was chosen from a pool of more than 8,500 essays. Bissell received $30.00 for her semi-finalist status.

Radio teacher **Joe Asher** traveled through England and France pursuing a search for radios made during the 1930s. Asher was awarded a grant through the Lilly Teacher Creativity Fellowship Program.

John Greco (12) and **Neil Shah (12)** were selected as the nominees for the Indiana University Wells Scholars program. Shah and Greco will complete against hundreds of high school students for the finalist status.

News From Student Government

Student Government is wrapping up Homecoming week and is starting to plan Semi-Formal.

-Spirit Day Raffel is every Friday, so wear your blue and gold!

-We are also currently working on a plaque to commemorate Justin Maroney and J.P. Kindel.

1.

2.

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Canadian Adventure

Middle school technology teacher Jeff Beck takes students on nine day canoe trip

Larry Buchanan
Associate Surplus Editor

It was the first of our eight day expedition. At the beginning of the trip the eighth day seemed so far away, but by the end, it seems like it went by so fast. For Jon Kolhoff (10), Cathy Meade (10), and me this was going to be our fourth trip; Hannah Smith (10) and Liz Kitto's (10) third; Austin Hetrick's (10) second; and Katie Romelfanger's (10) first. Accompanied by Ginny Ryan and Pat Ryan (G. Ryan, a Math teacher at Woodside, and P. Ryan a pastor at Northside Missionary Church), we had a very well rounded and experienced group. Each of us was looking forward to an exciting trip.

We packed all of our things into our compression sacks, loaded up our food packs and away we went. We loaded up into the vans to go to La Tourelle's outfitter.

From La Tourelle's we were put on a motor boat and traveled across Moose, Sucker, and Newfound Lake to Canadian Customs. Everyone crossing the border has to pass through customs. We waited around for about an hour when finally we were ready to begin. We loaded all of our packs into our three Canoes (three people in each) and we entered Inlet Bay. We had heard that the strong winds had been causing many people to swamp their canoes, so we decided to just paddle to the island in the middle of Inlet Bay, and camp there.

We arrived, set up tents, and had lunch. No one knew what time it was, because no one had brought a watch. We had peanut butter and jelly on bagels. After that, we played euchre, and did some odds and ends around camp. After awhile, it was dinner time. Now, contrary to popular belief, not all people who camp eat hot dogs and freeze dried food every night. I probably eat better when I am at camp, than I do at home. For our first meal we had cheeseburgers and baked potatoes, cooked right in the fire.

We were behind, since we had only paddled a short distance, due to the high winds the day before. Therefore, we had some catching up to do. It was another chilly morning, but winds were not bad. We had a breakfast of granola bars, and we were on our way. We started off with a short paddle to North Portage, our first test of the trip.

A portage is when a lake ends. You have to pick all of your things up and carry them across this "path" to the other side. When you arrive at the other side, you load your canoes up and paddle some more. This particular portage wasn't so bad, because it is frequently used. Portages are measured in rods, and a rod equals 16½ feet. There are 320 rods to a mile. When you portage, it is best if each canoe portages the contents of that canoe including packs, life jackets, paddles, the canoe, and any other miscellaneous things in your canoe. The hardest part is balancing the canoe on your shoulders, so it doesn't fall off. Smith and Hetrick were the other two people in my canoe. Smith carried the equipment pack and Hetrick carried the personal pack.

After these two portages, we had another short paddle and the Meadows Portages. These portages are also fairly easy because they are used frequently, but one is 160 rods and the other is 140 rods, with only a five minute paddle between them. The Meadows Portages dump you into Agnes Lake. Agnes is one of the longest lakes in Quetico. It is about 12 miles long, and Kolhoff, Meade, Smith, Hetrick, and I had the privilege of paddling the whole thing last year. Needless to say, we never wanted to do that again. So we only paddled about eight miles of Agnes, having lunch on the lake halfway down, and portaged out of it into Silence Lake. It was late afternoon when we arrived to a campsite.

We set up all three of our tents fairly quickly and got a fire going. Tonight we had my favorite dinner of all time, fajitas. Yes, fajitas in the middle of the wilderness, equipped with tortillas, taco sauce, chicken, and hot peppers, just like Mom used to make. We actually have fajitas because they are really easy to make, and tortillas are easier to carry than bread.

A late night was spent around the fire talking and looking at the stars; stars that one would never see in Fort Wayne. The stars are amazing, it looks like it would be possible to reach out and grab them. It's so soothing when the biggest problem is a 300 rod portage the next day, and worrying about what's cooking for dinner.

Day three was short. We only covered about eight miles, just enough to get up to Trant Lake. It was rumored that Trant had some cliffs to jump, something I had not experienced since my sixth grade trip. We had also heard, from an older camper in another group, that Trant had an excellent campsite. As we arrived on the lake, we saw both the campsite and the cliffs; a perfect site to end our traveling.

In the late afternoon, our group decided to go cliff jumping. The cliffs were only about 15 feet high, and don't look too bad when looking at them. But when someone gets up to the top, the cliffs seem a lot bigger. The air was probably at about 65 degrees and the water substantially colder. One by one, each member in the group took the plunge. Eventually, it was Hetrick's turn. We had gone over the rules a thousand times, feet first and hold on to your life jacket. I guess Hetrick missed that part, because when he jumped he went straight off and flopped headfirst right into the water. I thought he was going to hit the rocks in front of the cliff. He was okay, but G. Ryan nearly had a heart-attack.

Day four was full of in and out portage and paddle. Kashapiwi is about seven miles long. We saw many loons throughout these swamp-like areas.

Loons are amazing birds. Their movements are very jerky and in sync with their partner. They can only take off from the water. Their voices can be heard for miles and miles throughout the trees. Sound carries very well across the water.

We finally arrived at a camp site on the beautiful Sarah Lake. We decided to have a layover day here, which meant that we would spend two nights at this campsite. We all needed a break from paddling and portaging.

The next morning, we got a little bit more rest than usual because we weren't traveling.

Layover days are awesome because we get to have pancakes in the morning. That day, I decided to go swimming, but no one wanted to come with me, because, well, they're smart. I reared up my courage and took a running start off a rock into the freezing cold water.

Day seven was a fairly long day with a few difficult portages. We made it from Sarah Lake to Bayley Bay, which is about 10 miles.

Day eight was spent paddling out, back through customs, and trying to find a campsite on the Minnesota side of the border. The sun was shining for the first time the entire trip, and it was actually kind of warm outside.

Our paddle for the morning was very short, and we arrived at La Tourelle's again. We took the vans back and had breakfast in town. The Ryans paid for our breakfast, which was a very nice gesture. We did some shopping in town and then we were on our way home.

I've learned so much from this trip. It is one of the most rewarding things that I have ever done. Camping teaches you mental and physical strength, teamwork and leadership skills, as well as how to be resourceful and use what you have got. It is also a humbling experience, knowing that the world went on without you for eight whole days. It is nice sometimes to get away from everything, spend time with the beautiful sights and sounds of nature, and just relax. The entire experience has brought me closer to people whom I would have never met, otherwise.

4.

5.

1) Hannah Smith, Katie Romelfanger, Cathy Meade, and Liz Kitto take care of the dishes after dinner. On the trip, the boys and girls rotated this chore.
2) The International Water Falls separate Canada and Minnesota.
3) Kitto and Ginny Ryan finish a grueling portage. The group had to portage when crossing from one lake to another.
4) Larry Buchanan takes in the wilderness while camping in the forest.
5) A student sparks a moose's curiosity. Moose are a rare sight in Canada because they keep to themselves.
6) A seagull eats the remains of a walleye at the edge of a Canadian lake.
7) Buchanan goes on a relaxing paddle at a Louisa Falls campsite. Students spent a majority of their free time canoeing by themselves or with others.

7.

6.

Tourney Time

Maintaining a solid conference record, boys soccer prepares for the state tournament.

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Sports

Tennis Titans

For a record 25th time in a row, the varsity squad wins sectionals. The win came 3-2 against Canterbury.

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Girls Soccer improves to 11-4-2 despite injuries

Even Childers
Writer

Looking for a return trip to state competition this year, the girls varsity soccer team is playing well enough to make it happen. The team has improved to a 11-4-2 record on the season, with only a single conference loss to date. That conference loss came from last year's state champion, Carroll, who edged out the Spartans 2-1.

"I think that we've been playing better and better as a team each game," varsity soccer player Katie Beck (12) said. "We've really begun to pick up our play in big games."

The team has been combining solid offensive ball movement with a defense that is stingy enough to win tough games. Earlier in the season, the Spartans defeated the talented Bishop Dwenger Saints 2-1.

"Dwenger was ranked first (in the state polls) until we smashed them into the ground." Beck said.

Part of the team's success can be attributed to the amazing team unity that is displayed both on and off the field. The Lady Spartans are not only teammates; they are good friends as well.

"Team unity is good," Beck said. "We're all friends outside of soccer, and a lot of us hang out even when we aren't playing. It's like going to a party every day we go to practice."

In addition to the team unity that is readily displayed by the squad, confidence in team ability and appearance is equally high. Some of the team members will readily speak of the team's physical superiority, and will just as quickly describe the team's good looks.

"We're pretty much a beautiful team," Beck said. "Compared to other teams, we're gorgeous. It's super model central here. It's really not fair that we're all so pretty."

Last year, the varsity squad made it to the semi-final round of state competition before losing to Carroll, who went on to become the state champion. Despite losing several senior players, the team remains just as strong this season.

"We lost some good players but as a team we've improved enough to overcome our losses and then some," Beck said. "The team still has a lot of play makers. We have Sam Lee (11) in the middle, who is really good at distributing and getting the through balls to our forwards. Mandy Eid (12) is the rock of the defense and Kathryn Zachman (12) does things no other human could do. She's my hero."

The team hopes to repeat its trip to state this year, and with the way the Lady Spartans have been playing, a state title is not out of the question. This year, sectionals will be held at the school's field, so the team hopes that the home field will make a strong showing.

"Since our sectionals are going to be at Homestead, we hope that a lot of people will come out and support us, because we're going all the way this year, baby," Beck said. "I'm getting a tattoo when we go to state."

Three players lose most of season due to ACL tear

Sam Van Horn
Writer

Injuries have plagued many teams in past years; however, this season the girls soccer team has had three girls go down with torn ACLs. Kristen Kaverman (12), Lindsey Julius (12), and Katie Gotschall (11) were all sidelined earlier this year and worked hard to come back.

An ACL tear is a common occurrence at all levels of sports. It is estimated that 80,000 people tear an ACL each year, 56,000 in athletics. But women are more likely to suffer ACL injuries than men, something doctors and trainers have known for more than 20 years.

Some researchers believe women's wider hips, and the subsequent sharper angle from hip joint to knee, puts more pressure on the lower joint. Other studies have found that women have narrower knees in general, with joints that do not give as much as men's knees do. Some believe that hormonal changes associated with menstrual cycles affect ligament strength and elasticity.

Also, women are more "ligament-dominated"-their proportion of muscle to ligament is much smaller than in men, who have bulkier muscles. When women jump in the air and come down most of the impact is taken by their knee ligaments.

However, researchers have found quadriceps and hamstrings in women are slightly more balanced than in men. That shows that ACL prevention can be taught.

"It can happen to anybody at any time," history teacher Pat Teagarden said about preventing an ACL tear. "The strengthening of quads can reduce the possibility of an injury. But, sometimes it's just the way you land and it's tough to prevent that from happening."

Studies have shown that 50% of women's knee injuries come from pivoting on a fixed foot and changing direction while running; exactly what happened on Memorial Day Weekend to Gotschall.

Running down the sideline, Gotschall planted her foot to cross over and head toward midfield. At that moment, Gotschall heard a pop in her left knee and fell to the ground.

"I just needed to cross the ball off to get a score," Gotschall said after hearing the pop. "I didn't realize I tore it because it didn't hurt."

The same thing happened to Julius on May 22nd.

Julius was playing soccer while she was taken out from behind.

"I twisted my leg and heard a pop and knew it was my ACL immediately," Julius said.

No matter how anybody tears their ACL, they all have one thing in common. They must all go through rehab.

"Rehab was pretty easy, but it was a struggle mentally," Julius said. "It was easy to lift your leg before and now it is more difficult."

The girls varsity team has had a great season so far, however, everyone can agree that Kaverman, Gotschall, and Julius will help this team.

SPARTAN RENAISSANCE

After a dismal 1-2 start, the Spartans reel off four straight victories

Tyler Keena
Writer

After a 1-2 start, including a conference loss to East Noble, the Spartans offense has finally started to break out of its shell and has led the team to four straight victories and a 5-2 overall record.

The team's winning streak started with 21-7 win over Columbia City, which was an impressive performance after scoring just 17 points combined in the previous two weeks.

The win over Columbia City was followed by another conference victory over Bellmont. The team's offense really came alive in this game, putting up 54 while holding Bellmont to just 21 yards. The Spartans got out to a 42-0 lead before allowing the first of three Bellmont scores. Ten different players carried the ball for the Spartans, as they employed a "running back by committee" strategy during the blowout victory. Ryan Rahrig (12) led the team in rushing yards with just four carries 74 yards and two touchdowns. Other rushing touchdowns were scored by Kenneth Perkins (11), along with quarterbacks Matt Witham (12) and Jordan Wise (10). The Spartans had 280 yards on the ground, while holding Bellmont to just 22 rushing yards in 31 carries. Witham also had two passing touchdowns in the game, a 21 yard strike to Trevor Terrell (11) and a nine yard pass to Taylor Kinzer (11).

"After the two hard losses, the coaches challenged us to become better and more disciplined," Witham said. "I think we've accepted that challenge and we finally started playing Homestead football."

> "Everyone has really stepped up their play and is more intense on the field, especially the O-line."
> Matt Witham

The following week, the Spartans once again looked to the running game to ignite the offense. The ground attack provided everything the team needed as the defense dominated in the 38-3 victory over conference foe DeKalb. The Spartans ran through the DeKalb defense for 343 yards and five touchdowns. Tim Reid (12) led the team with 135 yards rushing and a touchdown. Other touchdowns were scored by Wise, Witham, Perkins, and Kinzer. The team's defense held DeKalb to just 54 yards of total offense and long field goal.

The Spartans also used a power-I formation in which they brought in an extra fullback and a tight end.

"We basically put in our biggest backs and pummel through the defense," Nick Johnston (11) said. "We usually only use it in short yardage situations, but we were consistently gaining yardage, so we stuck with it."

Another key to the Spartan running game was also the play of the offensive line.

"Everyone has really stepped up their play and is more intense on the field, especially the O-line," Witham said. "Lately, they have been playing great."

The team continued their winning streak in a 34-22 victory against Carroll, another conference foe. The team's offense put up three touchdowns in the game, all on the ground. Kinzer, Rahrig, and Reid scored the three touchdowns. The team ran for 225 yards and averaged 5.1 yards per carry. Reid led the team with 78 yards on 14 carries. The Spartans struggled to find a passing, with Witham and Wise combining to complete three passes on seven attempt for 18 yards.

Despite three offensive touchdowns, the key to the Carroll victory was the Spartan defense, which held Carroll for much of the game, and even scored two touchdowns on turnovers. Johnston and Justin Schoenle (11) scored the two defensive touchdowns, both on fumble recoveries.

Despite the emergence of the offense in recent games and a game winning streak, the Spartans' 7-10 loss to East Noble earlier in the season probably put them out of contention for an NHC championship.

Despite a probable second place finish in conference behind currently undefeated East Noble, the Spartans are still looking toward the postseason.

"We've improved a lot," offensive lineman Ryan Houlihan (12) said. "Hopefully we'll put the losses behind us and continue to improve into sectionals."

The Spartans would need to win their remaining conference games and hope for two East Noble losses in conference, which is not a probable occurrence, in order to take the conference championship.

The team has also has a tough road ahead if they hope to win a sectional championship and advance to regionals. This road would probably lead straight towards a very tough, state-ranked Snider football team, and a very tough matchup for the Spartans.

The team will play Norwell at home tonight. The homecoming court will be introduced and king and queen will be crowned.

photojack rozman

^Ryan Rahrig (12) "hits the R1 button" as he jukes Carroll defensive back Terrance Beasley (12). Rahrig raced 50 yards for a touchdown on the play.

photo/illustrationzach hetrick/josh zurawski

Boys cross country team members had a rough start, but hope to come through together as a team

Josh Butcher
Writer

Working hard everyday, the boys cross-country team has struggled a bit in the NHC. Although the team members are maintaining rigorous practice schedules, results do not reflect their perseverance.

"We are not doing as well as we should, but we have the talent to mix it up with the big boys but just haven't found our stride yet," Danny White (10) said.

The team's first meet was on August 17th at the DeKalb Invitational. Steve Clark (11) took fourth place in the event with a strong time of 17:24. Others from the team included 17th place Chris Miller (11), 18th place Ben Townsend (11), and 20th place Ross Schomburg (12). At the next meet, top competitors from the Spartan team included Clark with a time of 17:29, Townsend with 18:14, and Schomburg with 18:35. Next, at Bellmont, the team took last place against both Bellmont and East Noble. In this conference loss the Spartans held three spots in the top ten with Clark in third, Schomburg in eighth, and Townsend in tenth.

On the 14th of September they raced both Carroll and Dekalb at home, and took second place beating Carroll. Clark ran a great race of 17:22, taking first place honors. Also finishing strong in the race was fourth place Schomburg, fifth place Townsend, and eleventh place Miller.

Next, they had a meet against New Haven and Norwell, both conference teams. They finished last, but had many great times. Clark ran a 17:44, Dillon Kimmel (10) ran an 18:23, Townsend ran an 18:29, and Andrew Schroeder (10) ran a 18:44.

Running only one meet per week and usually an invitational on the weekend, the team spends most of its time practicing.

"Practice is tougher than the meets," Brian Graham (9) said. "Running for five or six miles close to race pace is really tough."

The team also runs on all weekdays on which members do not have meets.

> "We have run against some of the top teams in the state like Snider, but we still face challenges at conference and sectionals"
>
> Brian Graham (9)

"It depends on the day," Tyler Churchward (10) said. "Mondays are usually a distance run (five miles), Tuesdays we have meets, Wednesdays are an easier recovery run of around four miles, Thursdays we do intervals in the field (800s, 1000s, 1200s), and Fridays are usually 2-3 miles since we have invitationals on Saturdays. Practices aren't quite as hard as meets; at a meet you're running 3.1 miles all out non-stop, while at practice you get time to rest."

The coaching has a lot to do with some of the success the members have had. The team is coached by health teacher Dick Shenfeld, and the new assistant Ricky Trevino.

"The coach is awesome," White said. "His style does not differ much from other coaches, but 30 years of experience and the production of many excellent teams and individual athletes prove that he knows what he is doing."

The team might need to step up its game to reach its goals, as this area is known for turning out good runners. Many of the guys feel that they might have some tough competition coming up during sectionals.

"We have run against some of the top teams in the state like Snider, but we still face challenges at conference and sectionals," Graham said.

One might think that cross country is all about being fast, and the physical aspect of the sport, but it also takes a much greater mental game and good preparation for the race.

"I have to 'zone out' and think before each race," Schroeder said. "The physical part is mostly the same- it's always going to be rough. It's mostly mental, it's all about mental toughness."

Some runners such as David Boyer (10) have a routine they follow. "I drink about two bottles of water, eat a small snack, run a mile warm up, put my spikes on, and do a few other warm ups," Boyer said.

The team members seem very focused as they get down to the end of their season, and into the post season. They are hungry for sectionals, and the meets that follow. The boys have not done as well as expected, but they are still working hard.

Cross country teams look forward to post season

Girls cross country team began strong and expects to finish strong in state meet

Joe Salisbury
Writer

While some people do not expect freshman to have an impact on a varsity sport, Kelsey Knapp (9) has been proving them wrong. Knapp has been one of the top runners this season for the girls cross country team. In addition to Knapp, Joy Nordin (11), and Bliss Cook (12) have been leading the way for the Spartans. After starting the season off strong, the team has kicked it up a notch in hopes of making it far into the post season.

The Spartans began the season placing first against Snider, Bishop Luers, and Harding. It was a confidence booster as their first meet, and they carried the momentum into the next meet. They blew Columbia City away with their first conference win. With another big conference match on the way, the team focused and practiced harder. On September 7th the extra effort paid off as they beat both East Noble and Bellmont. Nordin finished third to lead the team, as Cook followed one second behind in fourth.

With only two more conference meets, they looked in stronger shape for the regular season.

On September 14th, they faced DeKalb and Carroll in one of their last conference meets until the NHC meet. In their only home meet of the year, they were able to bear DeKalb but could not catch up to Carroll. Cook lead the way again finishing fifth with a time of 16:05. In their final conference meet of the season, the Spartans faced New Haven and Norwell. The ladies ran away with a convincing 15 point win. They took second, third, fourth, fifth, and seventh to ensure the victory. Nordin, cook, and Knapp finished within two seconds of each other. With their regular conference season concluded, team members began competing in several invitational to prepare themselves for the conference meet, along with sectionals.

At the West Noble Invitational, the team gained valuable experience for the entire team. Knapp set the pace and finished eighth, with Cook finishing five seconds behind in 10th place. The next two finishers of the team were Nordin and Emily Nestle (11). Then on September 25, team members traveled to Snider for another invitational. Cook was the top finisher for the team at 10th place, followed by Knapp at 11th, both with times of 15:57. Also, Nordin finished 58th, Nestle got 60th, and Beth Niner (10) got 61st in a large field of competitors.

As they approach the post season, they are beginning to think more about their goals as a team.

"We want to make it to state, finish at least second in conference, and hopefully place in the top five for sectionals, regionals, and semi state at least," Knapp said.

There are several though teams in the area that will challenge the Spartans.

"Carroll, Snider, North Side, Concordia, and Huntington North are all pretty good, but we can beat them," Knapp said.

One of the things that makes the team confident heading into the post season is how close the team is to one another.

"Right now me and Bliss are pretty much the same," Knapp said. "I will beat her, then she will beat me, and then Joy and Emily are third and fourth."

With sectionals beginning on October 12th, the team has a lot to look forward to.

photozach hetrick

» Steve Clark (11) begins the cross country race at the beginning of the pack with Chris Miller (11) slightly behind him at the Snider Invitational against East Noble and Bishop Dwenger.

photoszach hetrick

» Mike Bruggeman (11) tries to weave out of two defenders' grasps on his way to the opposing goal in a game against Norwell. << Brian Rosenblatt (11) charges downfield. The Spartans defeated Norwell to bring their record to 12-2-1.

Boys soccer maintains solid NHC record, aims for state

Sam Van Horn
Writer

The varsity boys soccer team is a conference powerhouse this season, pushing the NHC around with a record of 4-1-0. The Spartans are in the top ten in the conference for goals scored, thanks to a devastating offense led by Chase Meeks (12), Ben Haifley (12) and Shane Connolly (12). The defense is in the top five for goals allowed; this season, the Spartans are looking to go all the way to state.

On Thursday, September 23, they traveled to take on Bishop Dwenger. They came out strong as Meeks was able to score unassisted to take an early lead. The Spartans scored again from a pass by Connolly to Haifley to make it 2-0. The Spartans continued to control the game as they scored once more in the second half. Phil Hershberger (12) made nine saves only allowing one goal as the Spartans came out with the victory 3-1.

In their next game the Spartans were at home to face rival Canterbury in what was sure to be a great game. Canterbury came out strong scoring two goals in the first half to take the 2-0 lead at halftime. However, Lee Castillo (11) came through scoring two goals to tie the game at 2-2. Both teams exchanged one more score as it was tied with about a half minute left in the game. Although Connolly had a free kick, he missed it over the top of the goal causing the end result to be a 3-3 tie.

Traveling to Norwell, this would be the Spartans' last conference game of the season. The fans received what they wanted in this match up: the game had to be decided in a shoot-out. In the first half there was not much action as the scored remained 0-0. However, in the second half Haifley was able to score to give the Spartans a much needed goal. The team looked great on defense as Hershberger led them having a terrific game with ten saves and only allowing two goals throughout the entire match. Five minutes reaming in regulation, Norwell's Gabriel Ramirez scored to send the game into overtime. The Spartans could not pull ahead, however, as after the overtime period the score was 2-2. The game had to be decided in a shoot-out, which the Spartans got the better of, and was able to defeat Norwell. The final score was 3-2 and the Spartans proved once again to be victorious.

As of press time, the boys soccer team had a record standing at 12-2-1 (4-1). The boys played Bishop Luers on October 2, 2004. Upcoming games for the boys soccer team include sectionals on October 12 at 5:00 p.m.

Girls golf season comes to an end

Caitlin Myers
Writer

After countless hours of practicing and playing in matches, the girls varsity golf team is finally done its their season. The overall season record was 9-2.

On Saturday, September 18th, the girls traveled to Parlor City Country Club, where the sectional match took place. There were nine teams competing and the girls placed first. The top three teams that advanced to regionals were Homestead with a 358, Norwell with a 366, and Bishop Luers with a 387. Ashley Rohlfing (11) placed first individually with a score of 83. Amy Heath (10) shot a 90, Holley Dickmeyer (12) a 92, Krista Karidas (11) a 93, and Jessica Sciortino (10) a 100.

On Saturday, September 25th, the girls went to the East Noble Regional at Cobblestone Golf Course in Kendallville. In order to go to state, the girls had to place in the top three teams; unfortunately the girls placed fourth and were not able to advance to the state match. The five varsity girls that played at the regional match were Rohlfing, Sciortino, Dickmeyer, Karidas, and Heath.

"It's kind of depressing because we worked so hard," Rohlfing said.

The score for this match was Leo with a 317, Bishop Dwenger with a 323, Warsaw with a 337, and Homestead with a 349. Rohlfing shot an 80, Dickmeyer an 85, Karidas a 92, Heath a 92, and Sciortino a 97.

"Even though we lost, we still achieved one of our goals," Rohlfing said. "We beat DeKalb and the newspapers favored them to win."

The girls also beat their 2003 conference and regional records. The score for conference in 2003 was 349 and this year it was 339. Regional score in 2003 was 352 and this year it was 349.

"I think it looks pretty good for us next year because a lot of teams are losing their seniors," Rohlfing said. "We are only losing one."

Girls soccer finishes the season strong

Girls JV soccer team dominates the fields as they finish undefeated

Hunter Hall
Writer

The girls junior varsity soccer team has enjoyed a lot of success this season, as they have posted a 13-3-0 record. The season should have ended on Saturday, October 2, but due to a cancelled and rescheduled match against New Haven, the team did wind up with a game scheduled on Monday, October 4. When asked about this upcoming and final game, the team's thoughts were united; they believed they would walk away with a victory, which would boost their already great season record with another game in the win column.

> I think this has been a great season. Our team has really come together as one.
> Vanessa Herman (10)

Unity is not necessarily a new concept to this JV team. They have consistently worked on team bonding and team relationships. For example, the day before their game against Bishop Luers, the girls met at Bob Evans for breakfast to plan for the upcoming game. Gathering together to eat before the game must have been a good plan because they ended up with an easy victory, beating Luers with by a final score of 6-0.

"I think the JV team bonded very well," Sarah Jones (10) said. "We all got along and we were very nice to each other. We had some ups and downs, but we were really good friends, which helped us in the long run out on the field."

Several other team members also recognized the importance of team unity to their successful season.

"I think this has been a great season," Vanessa Herman (10) said. "Our team has really come together as one."

On September 27, in the competition against Norwell, Kelsey Davis (10) was extremely pleased to have scored her first goal after two years playing Spartan soccer. She felt fantastic to be helping out her team by scoring a goal. This contribution was extremely important to Davis in breaking the streak of a two-year scoring drought.

"At the end [of the season], we really started coming together as a team," Amanda Kingsbery (10) said.

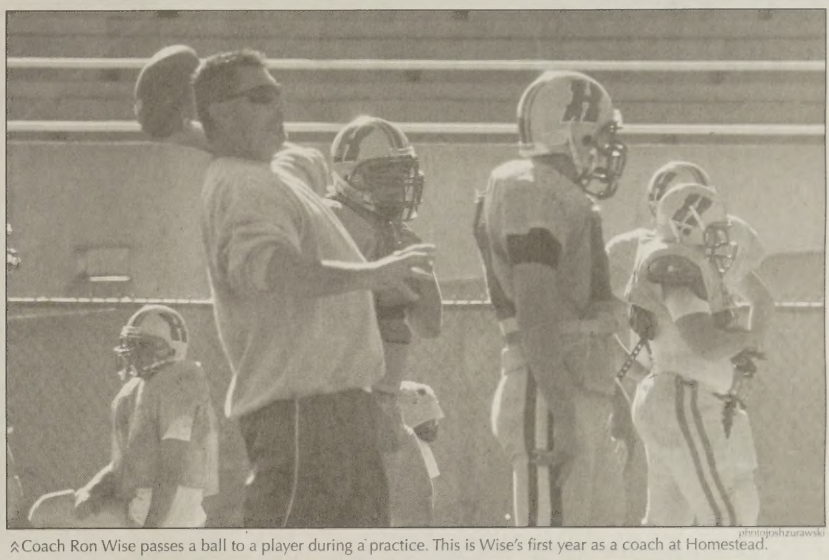
The whole team was well-rounded and played very well throughout the season, according to girls soccer head coach Pat Teagarden. Some key players were Davis, Erin Lessing (9), and Briana Flemming (9) for the defensive aspect of the team. Despite not scoring many goals, they were able to keep opponent scoring down to a minimun, which is just as important as scoring goals when playing tough teams and trying to put together a winning season. "They play really good soccer," Teagarden said.

Rachel Schenk (10) was also a very valuable mid-fielder for the junior varsity girls. Castillo was another name mentioned by the team members as an important player for the team. She was a powerful forward who played a key role in many of the team's games.

Their final game of the season was a win against New Haven with a devastating score of 12-0. It was a great way to end the season for the girls.

The girls have worked very hard this season and it definitely showed up in their game scores.

The girls JV soccer team had a great winning season.



photo/joshzurawski

Coach Ron Wise passes a ball to a player during a practice. This is Wise's first year as a coach at Homestead.

Past experiences strengthen caliber of play

JV coaches Shull and Wise had their heyday, now they are passing their skills on to the younger generation of players.

Taylor Pyle
Writer

Winning is not the main reason for coaching a junior varsity sport. Although, with the numerous wins that the junior varsity teams produce, the coaches want to teach the athletes about life-long lessons, along with skills used to walk away with victory.

Spending countless hours coaching and working with the boys, mixed in with working hours, and added personal time, prove the dedication of these coaches.

"My favorite part of coaching is being with the kids," coach of junior varsity football Ron Wise said. "I want to help them become better players and see them succeed."

"I like the contact I have with the kids," junior varsity head tennis coach Jim Shull said. "I also like the influence I have over them and enjoy watching them learn."

Although these coaches do not get a chance to play with their boys on the field and court, they had their moments back in the day.

"I played at Manchester College, one of the number one singles and doubles courts," Shull said. "I have also been a USPTA (United States Professional Tennis Association) teaching pro since 1974, and I taught professionally for ten years. I also went to the men's 35s (35 and older age group) state championship in singles and doubles and was the manager of the Carmel Racquet Club and the Muncie Tennis Club." Wise has had similar amounts of experience with his sport.

"I played all four years in high school as a defensive corner and for four years at Anderson College," Wise said. "I have coached at all levels; PAL league, high school, and college at Georgetown University in Kentucky."

Away from high school sports, the coaches have other jobs to attend to. For some, that job takes place right where they coach; at school.

"I teach three sessions of biology," Shull said. "I enjoy watching the kids learn."

Although Wise does not teach here, he owns a business.

"If I could teach, I would teach a business class," Wise said. "Having my own business for the last 13 years has been a real eye opener, and I think it would be great to teach some of what I have learned to students."

Although it does not seem like there is time for much else, the coaches have hobbies of their own to appreciate. From spending time with family, to traveling and watching sports, time is precious.

> I want to help boys grow to become young men with hope and promise for a bright future.
> Ron Wise

"Sports are my hobbies," Wise said. "If I have time for television, I'll watch any sport where I can root for the underdog."

"I spend time with my family," Shull said. "I also play tennis, enjoy reading, and travel when I get a chance."

The goals of the coaches are high, but they know that they can be achieved by hard work and dedication.

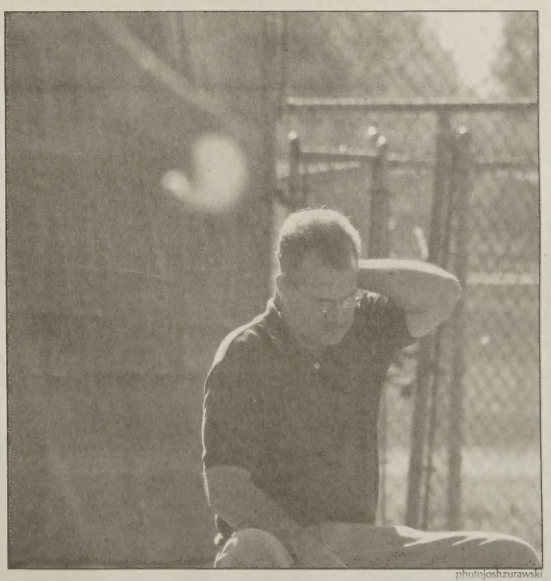
"The objective is always to improve skills so the reserve players will play varsity next year," Shull said.

Wise has team and personal goals in respect to football.

"From a coach's perspective, I want to win conference and hopefully a state championship when they move up," Wise said. "From a personal standpoint, I want to help boys grow to become young men with hope and promise for a bright future."

With the skills that the junior varsity coaches possess, it seems like they could coach anywhere. Besides the fact that this school is a great place to coach and in a in a great community, the kids and the atmosphere are the main reasons that they stay.

"No I would not leave," Shull said. "This is the best."



photo/joshzurawski

Coach Jim Shull observes the varsity players preparing for sectionals.

» A freshman punter sharpens his kicking skills while a teammate tries to block his punt during practice after school. The special teams squad played an important role for the team throughout the season. The team sports an undefeated record of 5-0 as of press time and hopes to continue their winning ways through their conference opponents as the season nears its end.

photo/joshzurawski

Freshman football starts strong with a 5-0 record

Tim Clark
Writer

Known state-wide for their football program, the Spartans have been successful for years. Ever since the fall of 1998 when the varsity team made it to the state finals, this team has been one to be feared. The dreams and achievements of those select few who don the blue and gold football jerseys have had to have started somewhere.

That somewhere is in their freshman year.

The dreams of making the varsity team start at the freshman level, where players practice and hone their skills to become more solid football players.

"Our goals for the freshman are to develop skills and techniques, develop them from good young men into great young men, and develop a great work ethic," coach Jeff Livensparger said.

His goals have not gone unnoticed by his players.

"We've been working hard this year," Ross Heckber (9) said. "The coaches have been pushing us really hard before games."

The freshman team is not disappointing its coach by any means either. They are enjoying a near perfect year this year, with an astounding 5-0 record. They have combined for three shutouts and have given up only 20 points total in all five games.

Livensparger expects his team to reign this year as conference champs and build onto that.

"We are working on an undefeated season," Livensparger said.

Out of all the contributing players this year, Livensparger says there are a few who stand out. Players like Ryan Wright (9), Nick Edwards (9), Drew Edmonson (9), Josh Hosler (9), Ross Heckber (9), Brandon Derck (9), Grant Herber (9), Andy Betz (9), and Ben Walker (9). Wright has even seen some play with the varsity team this year.

"We've been gifted for many years to work with great football players," Livensparger said. "Although the season is not over, this group defensively has given up the least amount of points to opponents as compared to the last three freshman teams."

Final Scores

H. North 13-0
Warsaw 21-0
East Noble 20-6
Columbia City 43-0
Bellmont 22-14

notjustanother SECTIONAL

WITH A 25 STRAIGHT SECTIONAL STREAK ON THE LINE AND A HIGHLY-RANKED CANTERBURY TEAM IN THEIR WAY, THE TENNIS TEAM BANNED TOGETHER AND CHALKED UP ANOTHER TITLE.

Jessica Bird
Writer

An older, more mature team, typically, is more successful than a younger team based on experience. The boys tennis team, however, is dominated by mostly underclassmen, yet has a winning record thus far. The team's conference record is 6-0.

"The underclassmen really pull through when the team needs that extra point," Greg Dillon (10) said.

Contributions to the winning record came from the team's one freshman, four sophomores, one junior, and one senior. "The team [both upperclassmen and underclassmen] really work well together and have good communication," Dillon said.

The team's last home conference match of the season resulted in a 5-0 win over Norwell. In number 1 singles, Dillon won 6-2,6-2. In number 2 singles, Cameron Huffman (10) won 6-0,6-0. In number 3 singles, Danny Reecer (9) won 6-0, 6-0. In number 1 doubles, Tyler Freeland (11) and Matt Anderson (12) won 6-2, 6-0. In Number 2 doubles, Josh Butcher (10) and Josh Rifkin (10) won 6-0, 6-0.

The next match was played at Columbia City on September 23. The match resulted in a 4-1 win by the Spartans. In Number 2 singles, Huffman won 6-0, 6-0. In number 3 singles, Reecer won 6-0, 6-1. In number 1 doubles, Freeland and Anderson won 6-1, 6-2. In number 2 doubles, Butcher and Rifkin won 6-0, 6-0.

The team then traveled to Indianapolis to play against Carmel, Jasper, and Center Grove on the weekend of September 25. Carmel was the first competitor and although the team had expected them to be a difficult match, the team was not totally defeated. Butcher and Rifkin received the only points for the team.

"Our goal against Carmel was just to hang in there and do our best," Huffman said. "It helped us gain experience by playing [a team] that is good."

The team's sense of pride came back after wins against their next two competitors, Jasper and Center Grove. The score of the match was 3-2.

For the first time in the school's history, the tennis team beat Center Grove. The score of the match was 4-1.

"Beating Center Grove for the first time in school history was amazing," Huffman said.

After their weekend in Indianapolis, the team came back and began preparing for one of the most important matches of their season: the sectional final against Canterbury.

Before they faced Canterbury they met up with Wayne High School. The Spartans would eventually win 5-0, with every spot winning 6-0, 6-0. The next match was against a slightly tougher Elmhurst team, but again the Spartans would go onto a fairly easy 5-0 victory. After advancing past Elmhurst, the championship match between the Spartans and Canterbury was set to be played the next morning.

After the match began, the team would eventually go on to win two-singles and three-singles, and lose one-doubles and singles, tying the match at 2-2.

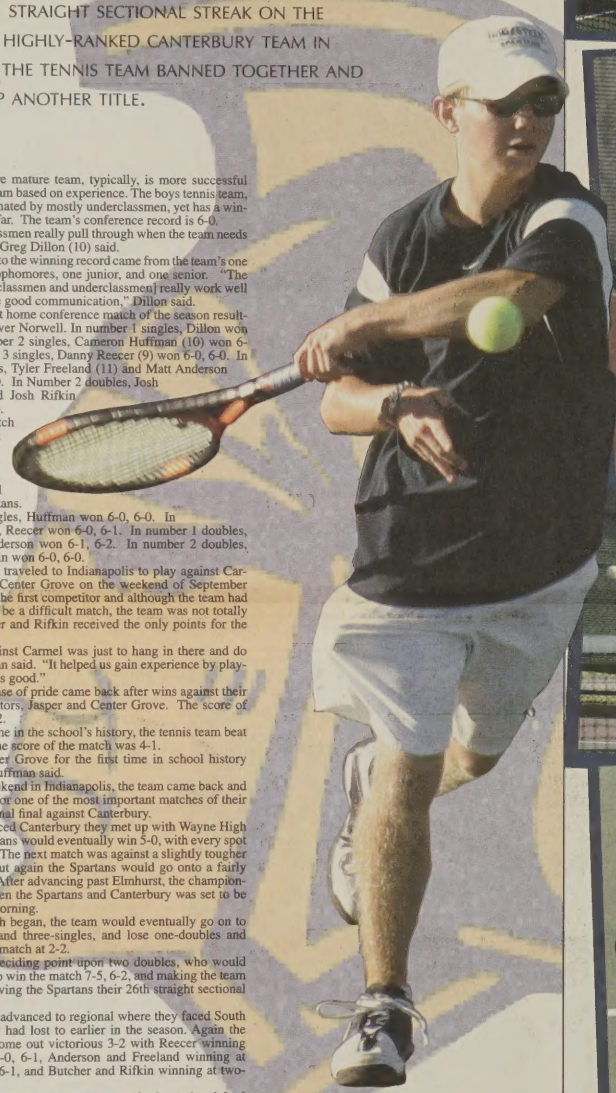
That left the deciding point upon two doubles, who would eventually go onto win the match 7-5, 6-2, and making the team score 3-2. This giving the Spartans their 26th straight sectional title.

The team then advanced to regional where they faced South Side, a team they had lost to earlier in the season. Again the Spartans would come out victorious 3-2 with Reecer winning at three-singles 6-0, 6-1, Anderson and Freeland winning at one-doubles 6-1, 6-1, and Butcher and Rifkin winning at two-doubles 6-4, 6-1.

The team next played Bishop Dwenger in the regional final on October 6th. Although they've never met in an actual team match, they've saw each other at the Homestead Invitational.

No matter how the season ends though the team will still feel that major achievements were made by the upperclassmen, as well as the underclassmen this season.

"Not every team can say that their sophomores and freshman can beat seniors and juniors," Huffman said.



» Greg Dillon hits a forehand during first-round Sectional play against Wayne High School. Dillon would go onto win 6-0, 6-0 and the team would end up winning 5-0.

» From top to bottom: Matt Anderson (12) stretches to reach a volley in the opening sectional round. Cameron Huffman (10), the two singles player, hits a forehand in his match against Wayne. Danny Reecer (9) slices a backhand cross court during Sectional play. Tyler Freeland (11) sets up for a forehand as part of the one-doubles team. Josh Butcher (10) dips low for a forehand volley during his two-doubles match against Wayne High School.

Homestead tennis: Past and Present

- Winners of Sectional championship for 2004
- 24 total Regional titles won, the most by any high school in Indiana
- Awarded 1st place at Homestead Invitational
- 16 Semi-State titles, highest amount won in state
- Beat Center Grove for the first time in school history
- 26 consecutive Sectional titles, the longest streak in IHSAA history
- Named NHC conference champions
- 8 total trips to stat-finals, 2nd highest total
- Huffman, Dillon, Anderson/Freeland all awarded 1st Team All Conference

the Spartana

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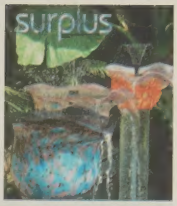

Botanical Beauty

Water and glass mix for a true spectacle at the Botanical Gardens

photo/zach hetrick

Drum majors Nathan Mensah (11), Jocelyn Gauthier (12), Erin Uhey (12), Anna Menze (11), Paul Gilbert (11) celebrate after their fourth place finish.

MUSICAL EXCELLENCE

Spartan Alliance Band places fourth at state finals in class A division, maintains tradition for 18th year in a row by qualifying for state competition

Suhasini Bhargava
Co-Editor in Chief

Performing at the Indiana State School Music Association (ISSMA)'s state final for the 18th consecutive year, members of the Spartan Alliance Band received fourth place on Saturday, October 23 at the RCA Dome.

The band competed against nine other bands in the class A division of ISSMA. The ten bands that competed in the class A division included (in performance order) Carmel High School, La Porte High School, Lawrence Central High School, Avon High School, Ben Davis High School, Penn High School, Lawrence North High School, Homestead High School, Snider High School, and Castle High School. In order to compete at the state finals, bands needed to place in the top five at one of two regional competitions held in the state on October 16, 2004.

The band placed behind the Marching Black and Gold of Avon High School, the Lawrence Central Marching Band, and the Ben Davis Marching Giants.

"We had an awesome show and that's really all that matters," clarinet player Shelley Gupta (12) said. "Placements are subjective. The show keeps getting better and better and we did our best and that's what anybody can ask for. I'm sure the other schools had great shows and maybe they scored a little bit higher but we had fun."

After the performance, parents gathered around the school buses to anticipate the students' arrival and to discuss results.

"They did awesome," band parent Chris Lonis said. "I'm disappointed [with fourth place] but I think they played very well."

The Spartan Alliance Band performed three songs to a theme titled "Half the Fun is Getting There." The band begins "here," a location represented by the letters "H," "E," "R," and "E." Throughout the performance, members play upbeat music and color guard members depict a sense of enjoyment through frivolous dancing and an enthusiastic routine. At the conclusion of its performance, the band arrives at its destined location: "there."

"During the show we have various things going on," Gupta said. "We have the guard playing on the spinning things and the barrels. The band is dancing and then the ballad is a piece that is kind of quiet but the third piece is very lively. We have a lot of fun."

Beginning practice in mid-August, band members under the direction of Steve Barber and Brad Wadkins have worked daily to accomplish their goals. On Saturday, October 16, one of the band members' goals was accomplished as they qualified for the state finals by placing in the top five at the regional band competition. The week of October 18 marked, perhaps, the most spirited week for both band members, and band enthusiasts including parents, grandparents, and friends.

photo/jack rozman

Katie Lauer (10) plays her flute on Saturday.

photo/zach hetrick

Penny Fullhart (10) and Ashtyn Bartkowiak (10) yell in jubilation on the streets of Indianapolis, the location of the ISSMA state final.

After band practice on Thursday, October 21, band students participated in a candlelight ceremony to reflect on the season and prepare for the upcoming competition. When students entered the school building, they were greeted with hanging stars, walls covered with posters, and hallways crowded with band parents and friends. Later in the evening, band students and parents gathered outside the cafeteria commons to participate in the drumline's cheers and to enjoy donuts and cider.

The morning of Saturday, October 23 was yet another display of spirit, enthusiasm, and anxiety before the performance at the RCA Dome in Indianapolis, Indiana. Once again, band fans (resembling a sea of royal blue) gathered in the parking lot to cheer for the students before they loaded the school buses destined for Indianapolis.

"The energy [is the most significant difference between this competition and others]," band parent Ceci Snyder said on Saturday morning. "These kids are overflowing. They are pumped and we are too."

Meanwhile, students listened to Barber's pep talk in the band room.

"The seniors are really nostalgic," drum major Jocelyn Gauthier (12) said. "A lot of us were crying during the pep talk because it's over for us."

Other band students, including members of the color guard, expressed varied emotions before loading the buses en route to state.

"I have this nervous feeling in the pit of my stomach," color guard member Alyssa Banas (9) said.

Before returning to Fort Wayne, seniors soaked in the events of the day and the 2004 season.

"This year was amazing," drum major Erin Uhey (12) said after greeting friends in the parking lot. "I'm sad that it's over but I take from it so many memories that I have no reason to be sad at all."

The festivities continued for the Spartan Alliance Band members upon arrival at school at approximately 2:30 a.m. on Sunday. As always, band parents welcomed home the fourth place recipients with flashing headlights, beeping horns, and applause.

Starting next week, band members will begin practice for their participation in the Fiesta Bowl in Phoenix, Arizona.

A decade of excellence

1994.State Champions
1995.State Champions
1996.State Champions
1997.State Runner Up
1998.State Runner Up
1999.Third Place recipients
2000.Fourth Place recipients
2001.Fourth Place recipients
2002.Fourth Place recipients
2003.State Runner Up
2004.Fourth Place recipients

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Nutrition labels....7
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Football....2
Boys cross country....2
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J.V. volleyball....3
Girls soccer....4
Boys soccer....4

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Revolution....3
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photos/zach hetrick

Leah Newcomb (12) reaches over to hug Audri Nicholson (12) after Newcomb was named Homecoming queen. David Gehrig (12) was the 2004 Homecoming king.

A Royal Night

Dillon Kimmel
News Editor

It seemed to go by in a blur. Throughout Homecoming week, students participated in different dress days, which included Pajama Day, Tie Dye day, College Day, Middle School day, ad Spirit day.

"I participated in the dress days everyday and I signed up for the spirit day raffle too," Katie Veith (10) said. "It was fun to be out of the ordinary."

The seniors prevailed in the Dirty Ducker's dodgeball game, Kevin Bartkowiak (11), Kailey Fisher (11), and Kari Zollinger (11) won the LipSync for their rendition of "Boys and Girls." Also, student government held its annual Fall Picnic, and the Homecoming football game was held on Friday night.

Two seniors' Homecoming aspirations became a reality as David Gehrig (12) and Leah Newcomb (12) were crowned Homecoming king and queen during halftime of the game. Newcomb and Gehrig were greeted by last year's crown winners, Molly Laipple and Shaun Fox, following the announcement.

One of the major disappointments of the night came when the football team took the field against Norwell for the Homecoming game. The team committed seven turnovers and had eleven penalties in the 9-7 loss. The loss dropped the squad to 5-3 on the year.

Following the game, the Homecoming dance was held in the cafeteria. This year, there was an increased enforcement of the "dirty dancing" policy. A DDR (Dance Dance Revolution) contest was held at the dance as well. Held until midnight, the dance was attended by many freshman and sophomores, along with a handful of upperclassmen. The dance was attended by many more students than last year, thanks in part to more activities to choose from and improved DJs.

In retrospect, Homecoming was a spirited week during the fall quarter of the 2004-2005 school year.

"Roman soldier" invited to speak to Latin students

Emma Farnsworth
Guest Writer

On October 5, Fabius the Tribune regaled Latin students and sixth graders with a colorful presentation of the military of the Roman empire.

The visit was made possible by Latin teacher Kathy Adair and the Junior Classical League (JCL).

"We could have learned about the military in a textbook, but I thought the students would enjoy and retain the information better if Dr. Barcio came," Adair said.

Fabius Lorelus Tiburtinus, the alter ego of Dr. Bernard Barcio, entered the auditorium in full Roman armor. Barcio explained that the Roman Empire needed a large, fierce, and effective army in order to protect its boundaries from barbarians. He went on to describe nearly every aspect of the Roman military.

"In the Roman army, you are only told one time," Barcio said.

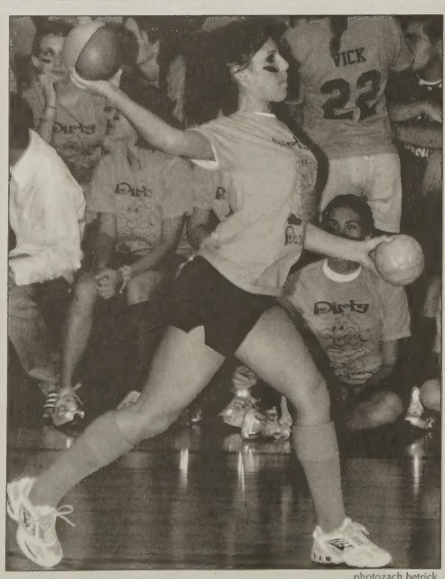
He illustrated his point with stories of the various cruelties inflicted upon Roman soldiers-in-training. The punishments, which include whippings and stoning were effective and necessary. Barcio also demonstrated Roman weaponry and armor, explaining the superiority of Roman tactics and design. The Roman sword, called a gladius, was short and lightweight, engineered for the close combat typical of an ancient battle.

"I was fascinated by the innovations of the Roman army," Lee Farnsworth (9) said. "Their tactics were obviously effective, because they ruled the world for over one hundred years."

Students played an interactive part in the presentation. Volunteers from the audience represented the ranks of Roman military offices and swore a code of conduct.

Barcio, a former Latin teacher, has been performing as Fabius the Tribune since 1974.

"I enjoy working with students," Barcio said. "A good teacher is like an actor, and makes the history come alive."



photozach hetrick

Jen Scuthfield(11) launches a ball at a member of the senior team. The seniors won the match without difficulty.

Seniors prevail over juniors in dodgeball

Larry Buchanan
Associate Surplus Editor

The annual Dirty Duckers Dodgeball game between junior and senior girls took place on October 5. The dodgeball game has usually taken place during Snowcoming week, in February, but this year Student Government decided to include it in the Homecoming week activities.

Sophomore vice president and treasurer, Caitlin McPherson (10) and Molly Rodenbeck (10), respectively, coordinated the Dirty Duckers game this year. This year is their second year organizing this event.

McPherson also commented on the game's popularity.

"[I think people like it because] it's something different," McPherson said.

The game is played like dodgeball, but pins are added to create a scoring method. Each time a pin is knocked over, the other team gets a point.

In the first round of this year's game, the senior girls dominated the junior girls and took nearly everyone out. With only three juniors left, the seniors had an easy task of simply racking up the points by knocking over junior pins.

During halftime there was a pie eating contest. Mike Dutton (12), Taylor Klein (10), and Jason Johnson (12) were the participants. Dutton won with Johnson and Klein tying for second.

"I knew I didn't have a chance to win against those guys," Klein said. "But hey I got to eat a pie, which was yummy."

The junior girls looked like a new team after halftime. They hung with the seniors, but they could not make up enough points to catch up to the seniors. They made a valiant effort, but could not make up enough ground to make it competitive.

Overall, the seniors dominated the juniors in all aspects of the game. "They took us down to China Town," Ashley Rohlfing (11) said. "But next year, we're going to take the sophomores (upcoming juniors) down to China Town."

Global Briefs

— Christopher Reeve —

Actor Christopher Reeve, who played the hero Superman in the "Superman" movies, died on Saturday, October 9. Reeve went into cardiac arrest Saturday at his home in Westchester County, New York, after developing a serious systemic infection during treatment for a pressure wound. He slipped into a coma and died Sunday afternoon at a hospital near his home.

Reeve became paralyzed after falling off a horse, and became an advocate for spinal cord research and stem cell research. He was 52.

— Afghan Elections —

Afghanistan held its democratic elections for the first time in the nation's history. It is predicted that the nation's population will cast ballots for Haimid Karzai, the current interim president. However, those opposing Karzai banded together on Saturday, October 9, and charged him with voter fraud. The allegations were cleared after much debate.

Another mile marker for nation is the running of a woman for president. This is the first time a woman has been able to voice her opinion in public, let alone run for office.

— Bombs in Baghdad —

Two powerful bombs that may have been carried by hand into Baghdad's fortified Green Zone went off today, killing five people and wounding many more on the eve of the holy Muslim month of Ramadan. Three of the victims were Americans working for the U.S. Department of Defense.

—1994 Plane Crash —

Freight company MK Airlines confirmed on Thursday that one of its Ghanaian-registered Boeing 747 cargo planes crashed in Halifax, Canada, in 1994. The crash killed all six crew members aboard. Officials have determined that it is too early to determine the cause of the crash. Investigations are under way.

—— Prince Harry ——

Prince Harry's former teacher, Sarah Forsyth, claimed during a tribunal that she was unfairly dismissed from Eton College after being ordered to help Prince Harry cheat in an exam. She tried to prove her allegation by playing a secret tape recording she had made while talking to him. An investigation has proven him not guilty.

— Presidential Debate —

President George W. Bush and Senator John Kerry exchanged heated words over the third and final presidential debate. For more on this debate, and other events in the race for the Presidency of the United States of America, see the story on this page.

– Terrorism in the USA –

A senior al-Qaeda operative was accused of conducting surveillance on U.S. financial buildings as a possible terror targets had entered the United States on a student visa, according to the newspaper report. FBI agent Joseph Billy Jr. told the Record of Bergen County that U.S. officials have identified the suspect as 32-year-old Bhiren Barot. He was arrested by British authorities in August and remain in custody there.

– Gubernatorial Debates –

Three governor hopefuls offered clearly different views on their plans for education, job creation, government reform and property taxes during a debate for the office of Governor of Indiana.

Democratic Governor candidate Joe Kernan, Republican Mitch Daniels, and Libertarian Kenn Gividen, argued their positions and criticized each other on reforming the state's economy, improving health care and education, implementing new programs and creating jobs.

Both Kernan and Daniels want another debate in October in southern Indiana

briefspuja parikh

Corrections, new policy

The photo of Jill DeArmond (12) on page 4B of the issue printed on September 24, 2004 was mistakenly labeled a photo. The photo should have been labeled as an illustration.

Starting issue 4, all manipulated photos will be labeled "altered photo." The label "photo illustration" will no longer be used.

Music Pirates

Homestead students contribute to the popular but illegal downloading of music

Austin Hetrick
Writer

Nelly, Ray Charles, The Rolling Stones, LL Cool J, Ashlee Simpson, Usher, Green Day and Jet: the only expense for all the tunes one could possibly want is the click of a mouse button and a few moments' patience. This is the temptation that has lured millions of American teenagers toward the ever-growing world of illegal "pirated" music. This seemingly unavoidable conflict between students' attention to copyright regulations and the ease of use with which they can download music has lead to a legal battle that has reached the highest courts, and continues to be fought today in homes across the nation.

Students are not immune to the temptations of free music. On buses and even on school computers, music can be found that was not added by the technology staff. Many students hear music throughout their days, and an increased number of mp3 players can be seen at school.

Mp3 players are generally cheap and allow people to load music files from computers into the player's drives. Mp3 players were intended to be used with files loaded from legally purchased albums, but often pirated files make their way onto students' players. What has made pirated music so rampant, both at school and across the nation, is the ease of use with which teenagers are able to find and download all the music that could possibly want.

In order to download music for free, most teenagers utilize a search engine, which leads them to "peer-to-peer" downloading sites. These sites, also known as "p2p," direct people to download software which allows them to connect with other individuals over the internet and exchange files (music, movies, and even software). This exchange, until recently, was conducted through servers tied to a single company. However, with the legal victory of record companies over Napster in February 2001, corporations such as Kazaa and Morpheus have severed the physical ties between the searches and downloads conducted by the average person and their servers. This has protected them from the wrath of the music labels, and continues to allow them to operate even now, three years after Napster's demise.

Students have utilized these same corporations for some time, however some are changing their ways due to realizations and government threats.

"I started downloading music because a bunch of people were talking about it," Joe Doe* (10) said. "At first, I didn't really think about it being copyright infringement, but later on I realized that [the artists] weren't making any money so [my downloading] was stealing from them. I stopped downloading about six months ago."

This student's experiences with pirated music are not unique.

"I downloaded for a few months, but then I got worried about the laws I might be breaking," Bob Smith* (11) said. "Some kids said that the FBI was cracking down on this stuff. I now use a legal company called Rhapsody, which sells music for a lot cheaper than buying albums one by one, but is also legal."

Companies such as Rhapsody (which offers unlimited downloads for a certain time period at a relatively low price, below 20 dollars) are becoming popular among teenagers. Regardless, users of pirated music sites still greatly outnumber those of legal companies.

Many students are increasingly unnerved by the threats released from government agencies and by music corporations. Some even feel that their actions may hurt some people related with the music industry.

"I stopped because I realized everyone that helps make the music and sells the music is hurt by downloading," Jane Johnson* (10) said. "I don't really feel bad for the artists because they already have enough money, I care more about the working people."

Although these three individuals have changed their ways, according to Harris Interactive (an online polling site), music downloading in teenagers is "regaining speed after a long slump."

For now, downloading music without paying for it remains illegal for individuals, even if the companies which enable those downloads remain protected by loopholes in copyright code. Although few teenagers have actually met with prosecution by the government, the veil that shrouds the identity of millions of other downloaders is slowly being eroded.

*Names were changed to protect the identity of the individuals.

PSAT tests prepare students for SAT

Laura Summers
Writer

On Wednesday, October 13, freshmen, sophomore, and junior students participated in taking either the PLAN test or the PSAT test.

For three hours, the freshmen took the PLAN test. This test is helpful for students because the results give insight to the beneficial skills that specific students have that can help them later on in life.

"The PLAN test was pretty long, but I'm sure that it will help me in the long run when I start getting ready for the SAT test," Aaron Rittenhouse (9) said.

Both the sophomores and juniors had the opportunity to take the PSAT at this same time. This test is like a practice for the SAT the students must take to get into college.

This was the second time taking the PSAT for juniors.

"The test was basically the same both years," Jennifer Tharp (11) said. "Taking it again just gave me more practice for when I take the actual SAT later this year."

The PSAT also provided a chance for students to receive scholarships from different organizations based on their scores. By filling out the profile on the test concerning religion, students were given an opportunity to receive information about schools associated with the religion of their choice.

The PSAT included five sections of testing. Two sections were over mathematics, and the other three covered language arts, grammar, and vocabulary. This test was far more advanced than the ISTEP+ test which is just a test that basic knowledge needed for tenth grade.

While three-quarters of the school got to enjoy taking a three hour long test, the seniors had a chance to visit different colleges, job shadow, or attend a supervised study hall at school. Several students got to go to work at a place with careers they might possibly be interested in pursuing after college.

This day of testing was a helpful situation for students preparing to apply to different colleges.

"I think it's important to practice as much as possible," Emma Farnsworth (10) said. "The more you practice the more prepared you'll be for the actual SAT."

The PLAN and PSAT test might have seemed like a waste of time to some students, but that thought will be proved incorrect when the time comes to take the most important test of a high school student's career.

Presidential candidates clash in head to head debates

An in depth look at the second and third presidential debates, vice presidential debate

Puja Parikh
Associate News Editor

In two more presidential debates, President Bush (R) and Senator John Kerry (D) exchanged heated words over topics such as jobs, health care, terrorism, the war in Iraq, education and more. Also, the Vice President, Dick Cheney (R) and Vice Presidential nominee John Edwards (D), had their one and only debate.

During the first presidential debate, it seemed clear that senator John Kerry had won. Among a random sample of 531 registered voters who watched the debate, 45 percent called Kerry the winner, 36 percent said it was President Bush, and 17 percent called it a tie. Many voters, however, were still undecided on which candidate they preferred.

The second presidential debate followed a different format from the other debates, in that it was a town hall style debate. Members of the audience would ask a question to one of the candidates, and the candidate would reply. The other candidate would also address the question, and a rebuttal would be provided by the consent of the moderator, Charles Gibson of ABC News and "Good Morning America." Also, unlike the previous debate, question could be asked about any topic.

Expectations for both candidates during the second presidential debate, were high. Since Bush had been on the defensive during much of the first debate, analysts and voters alike were watching to see if Bush would try to deal a more offensive hand this time around.

Senator Kerry was expected to stay on the offensive, and be a leading figure who would catch the votes of undecided voters who liked Bush's security concerns, but were worried that he was leading them on the wrong path.

The first question dealt with terrorism and the war in Iraq. Kerry responded by stating, "...the president didn't find weapons of mass destruction in Iraq, so he's really turned his campaign into a weapon of mass deception. Ladies and gentlemen, the right war was Osama bin Laden and Afghanistan. That was the right place. And the right time was Tora Bora, when we had him cornered in the mountains."

Bush's response was quick, "But Saddam Hussein was a unique threat. And the world is better off without him in power. "

On the issue of education, Kerry said, "Right here in St. Louis, you've laid off 350 teachers. You're ... about $100 million shy of what you ought to be under the No Child Left Behind Act to help your education system here. I've argued that we should fully fund it. The president says I've changed my mind. I haven't changed my mind: I'm going to fully fund it. "

> "...only a liberal senator from Massachusetts would say that a 49 percent increase in funding for education was not enough."
> President Bush

"First, the National Journal named Senator Kennedy the most liberal senator of all. And that's saying something in that bunch. You might say that took a lot of hard work. ... he said he's going to have a novel health care plan. You know what it is? The federal government is going to run That's what liberals do. They create government-sponsored health care. Maybe you think that makes sense. I don't," Bush said.

Senator Kerry ended the debate by stating, "I believe America's best days are ahead of us. I'm an optimist, but we have to make the right choices, to be fiscally responsible and to create the new jobs of the future. We can do this. And I ask you for the privilege of leading our nation to be stronger at home and respected again in the world."

A CNN/USA Today/Gallup poll taken right after the town hall debate found respondents giving a slight, statistically insignificant edge to Kerry over Bush: 47 percent of them went for Kerry and 45 percent for Bush.

The Vice Presidential debate was a very interesting debate, in that both nominees constantly attack one another. Cheney attacked Edwards's senate record, and Edwards attacked Cheney's very conservative ideas.

At one point during the debate, moderator Gwen Iffel made a comment saying that Edwards didn't talk about the question, and talked about something else, while Cheney addressed the question. Edwards responded during the next question by saying, "Gwen, your question was about jobs?"

"It was about jobs, and it was about poverty," said Iffel.

"I thought it was about jobs and poverty. I hope we get a chance to talk about education, but that's what the vice president talked about," Edwards shot back.

Another argument erupted over Edwards's senate record.

"The first time I ever met you was when you walked onto the stage tonight," said Cheney, whose job is to reside over the senate.

There was no clear winner in the vice-presidential debates because different news stations showed different polls.

The third and final presidential debate was moderated by Bob Schieffer of CBS News. This debate followed exactly the same debate as the first one, except that questions could be asked about any subject.

When asked about jobs, Kerry said, "One percent of America got $89 billion last year in a tax cut, but people working hard, playing by the rules, trying to take care of their kids, family values, that we're supposed to value so much in America -- I'm tired of politicians who talk about family values and don't value families. What we need to do is raise the minimum wage."

Education was an issue that was also raised during the debate. When Kerry said that not enough money was going towards education, Bush said "...only a liberal senator from Massachusetts would say that a 49 percent increase in funding for education was not enough."

A CNN-USA Today Gallup poll showed that 53 percent of the poll's 511 respondents thought Democratic challenger John Kerry came out on top. And 39 per cent felt U.S. President George Bush and did better in the third and final debate. However, an ABC news poll showed that 48 percent favored Kerry and 47 percent favored Bush.

The outcome of these debates is the following one: the candidates are in a virtual dead heat, 43 percent to 43 percent. However, many voters felt satisfied by the debates, claiming that they learned where Kerry stood on the issues, and could now make a decision based on which candidate they agreed with the most. Still, undecided voters say that they have not yet made a choice.

Students and teachers alike have watched the debates and voiced opinions about the political issues.

"Remember this... what will decide who the winner is hasn't happened yet," Biology teacher Jay Hammel said.

Students must read fine print in college ranking guide

Rose-Hulman qualifies as number one engineering only in bachelor's, master's category

Neil Shah
Writer

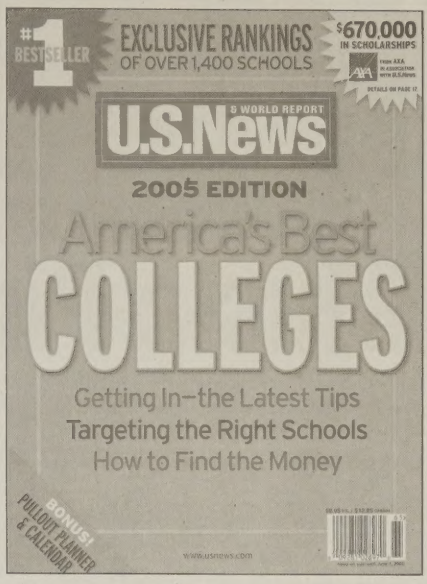
The search for the right college can be a long and tedious one. Students often choose what college to go to based on size, how pretty the campus is, how much it costs, and other major factors. However, students also consider how reputable the school is for their intended field of study. A common example is the choice between Purdue University and Indiana University – anyone that intends to study engineering typically goes to Purdue because it is known for its engineering department. The problem arises when a student wants to consider schools nationwide and determine which are better than others for whatever they intend to study. How should a student go about determining which schools are better than others? Arguably the best source of these rankings is the special edition of *U.S. News and World Report: America's Best Colleges*. This edition comes out annually, and is a guide to virtually every college or university in the country. These rankings are quite comprehensive: one can find anything from the best undergraduate business program in finance to the overall best school in the country. I have heard many people talk about which schools are better than others and their arguments are virtually always based on these rankings. There are important details to note, however, that many people conveniently exclude when they use these rankings to support their choices or arguments for many colleges.

> "I have heard similar claims about other schools (primarily those in Indiana), but none as prevalent as the Rose-Hulman myth.

The worst example I have heard of this convenient omitting was in Terre Haute when the mayor of the city, Kevin Burke, gave a speech to the entire Boys State convention about how the city is home to the Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology, the number one ranked engineering school in the country. He conveniently failed to mention, however, that there are two different ranking systems for undergraduate engineering programs. One system is reserved for schools whose highest degrees offered are a bachelor's or a master's, and the other system is for schools whose highest degree offered is a doctorate. Rose-Hulman ranks first in the former ranking system, for schools that only offer a bachelor's or a master's degree. None of the true engineering heavyweights appear in this system because they all offer doctorate degrees. The more accredited engineering schools appear in this system, like the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (ranked first) and Stanford University (ranked second). These universities are arguably the best engineering schools in the world. Even Purdue University places among the top ten engineering heavyweights, in the system for schools that offer a doctorate. Furthermore, Rose-Hulman does not show up for graduate schools of engineering because it does not meet the constraint that a doctorate must be offered; MIT and Stanford place first and second, respectively, in this list as well. Another fact indicative of Rose-Hulman's inferiority to other engineering schools is that its undergraduate enrollment is a mere 1,721 students and yet it accepts a huge 71% of its applicants, hardly competitive to earn admission. To compare to its number one counterpart, MIT has an undergraduate enrollment of 4,112 and only accepts 16% of its applicants – much more difficult to get admission.

It is a shame to hear teachers and students alike use the rankings out of context to bolster their claims that Rose-Hulman is the best engineering school in the country, because it is far from it. I have heard similar claims about other schools, primarily those in Indiana, but none as prevalent as the Rose-Hulman myth. Many of the rankings are available for free at www.usnews.com, and are worth checking out. I suggest reading the rankings closely in order to make strong arguments and good decisions about schools before relying on what some teachers and students may say about those schools.

Neil Shah is a senior and works as a writer for the Spartana. *The views and opinions expressed in this editorial do not necessary represent those of* the Spartana *or of its staff.*



Pictured above is the college ranking guide used by many individuals in determining which colleges offer the best programs for study in certain disciplines.

*Best National Universities**

Name of University	Score	Acceptance	SAT
1. Harvard University	100	10%	1400-1590
Princeton University	100	10%	1370-1560
3. Yale University	99	11%	1380-1580
4. University of Pennsylvania	95	20%	1330-1510

*according to the *U.S. News and World Report*

Semi-annual school picnic lacks originality, should not be held

photokara wall

Picnics 'miserable failures' because of bad food, insects, inconvenience to students

Javed Sayed
Opinions Editor

Twice a year student government feels the need to bring the school a little bit closer. So they organize such new and original events as a picnic for lunch.

I have to commend the spirit of student government for their persistence at making the school a better place. However, in all honesty their little picnics are miserable failures. One would think that after years of having the same picnic maybe somebody would come up with a new idea. Apparently, our school lacks anybody with even a hint of originality. So once every semester, year after year, the students are taken outside with in hopes of having a good time. Unfortunately, everybody I've talked to hates the picnics, and would much rather eat indoors. Sure, it was a good idea when everybody was three and four years old, but now we are just a tad bit older. I'm not even sure we can call this excursion a "picnic", because the word "picnic" has a connotation of fun; our school "picnic" lacks any fun and excitement.

Students have many hours after school when they can be outside, so I'm not really sure why we go outside to eat. I have never gone to a restaurant with the intention of eating outside on moist ground, so why do we do it at school? Somebody, somewhere must know and I would really appreciate it if they would share the answer with me.

> "I feel that no amount of manipulation can make it any better. As such, I advocate the total removal of the "picnic" from our school year.

Well, at least when we go the "picnic" we get to have a fancy "orange drink" that we don't get anywhere else. Really, what the drink taste like is simply sugary water, which I might add I can also make at home. But I don't make that at home, and rarely do I have anything else we eat there at home. The reason is that I hate it. I'm not really interested in drinking sugar water, nor having hotdogs, which are probably made from some of the worst meat available. Another thing, the sugar water known as the "orange drink" causes wasps and bees to flock over to where we are eating. However, besides the possibility of being stung by the bees, they make for some excitement. So it seems I may have lied before there is some excitement in our "picnics." Just recently some friends and I got to play the exciting game of "avoid being stung and trap the bee in the drink." This is a game where a wasp or bee goes inside in the "orange drink," and while the bee is inside the carton, one must try and close the lid to the drink carton before it escapes. After many tries my friends and I succeeded in trapping the bee. Possibly, before eating outside we should try to make sure that there aren't hoards of insects everywhere. However, thinking of such things would require caring, which evidently the organization responsible for holding the semiannual picnics lacks.

So how can we fix the picnic? Unfortunately I do not know of any ways to fix the picnic, as the idea itself is horrible. I feel that no amount of manipulation can make it any better. As such, I advocate the total removal of the "picnic" from our school year, to be replaced with hopefully a much better idea.

Javed Sayed is a junior and works as the Opinions Editor for the Spartana. *The views and opinions expressed in this editorial do not necessary represent those of* the Spartana *or of its staff.*

Kerry not only candidate who changes positions

"Flip flopping" is not most serious issue in election

Jim Katz
Writer

When I hear of Presidential candidate John Kerry being accused of "flip flopping," two questions come to mind: Does George Bush "flip flop" as well? More importantly "Is 'flip flopping' really a problem?

Since the end of primaries, once it was clear that Kerry would be the Democratic Party nominee for President, President Bush and the Republican Party have been pushing the image of Kerry as a "flip flopper." This has been a term used to emphasize Kerry's shift of position on several issues. Their goal is to try and create an image of Kerry as weak, and unable to lead the country in these trying times. However, there are two important reasons why these charges aren't true.

The truth is that throughout his years as a senator, Kerry has changed his stance on numerous issues such as No Child Left Behind, tax laws, national defense systems and most importantly the war in Iraq. This might seem like a lot of important issues to "flip flop" on, but consider the issues Bush has shifted positions on.

Whether or not there should be a Department of Homeland Security (was against it in October 2001), the need for the creation of the 9/11 commission, the need for an independent "weapons of mass destruction" investigation, states' rights involving marriage laws, and the need for a United Nations vote before invading Iraq are several of the issues that Bush has changed his stance on.

But, in reality, who "flip flopped" on what, is not the more serious issue. The issue is really whether "flip flopping" is a problem at all.

If you accept that both sides have "flip flopped," what you may be thinking is that "well, then both candidates have changed positions, so it doesn't matter." The two most important issues of this election are credibility and Iraq, and so having a credible stance on Iraq is what voters are looking for.

"Well, you know, when I talked about the $87 billion, I made a mistake in how I talk about the war," Kerry said at the first Presidential debate. "But the president made a mistake in invading Iraq. Which is worse?" Kerry actually admits he made a mistake, something you won't hear from Bush.

"First of all, what my opponent wants you to forget is that he voted to authorize the use of force and now says it's the wrong war at the wrong time at the wrong place," Bush said at the same debate. "No, the way to win this is to be steadfast and resolved and to follow through on the plan that I've just outlined." This statement clearly shows the Bush mentality, which is to stay the course, even if it's the wrong course.

The Bush position is that once you reach a conclusion all actions must follow that verdict, regardless of later information. Such is the case in Iraq. In 2002, when the initial proposal for an invasion of Iraq began, most people believed the information from the President that there was "no doubt" Saddam Hussein was connected with 9/11, had weapons of mass destruction, and was prepared to use them on the United States.

> "Perhaps I would be more forgiving if Bush would at least admit that he made a mistake.

That information was the reason why Kerry voted for giving Bush a "blank check" for the war Iraq, and then voted against the "87 billion dollars" that Bush continues to use as example of "flip flopping."

The basic difference between Bush and Kerry is that one accepts that circumstances can change a person's opinion of a war, and one does not. Kerry takes into account that the initial reasons for going to war were either errors or lies. Bush on the other hand slowly shifts what the war is about. It went from Saddam Hussein having weapons, to wanting weapons, to a brutal dictator who kills his own people, but isn't really any sort of threat to us.

Perhaps I would be more forgiving if Bush would at least admit that he made a mistake in invading Iraq.

The American Heritage Dictionary defines the word "think" as "to exercise the power of reason" or "To weigh the idea; consider the matter." So, maybe what Bush is trying to say is "If you elect John Kerry, you'll have a thinker in the White House."

Jim Katz is a junior and works as a writer for the Spartana. *The views and opinions expressed in this editorial do not necessary represent those of* the Spartana *or of its staff.*

Popular vote should determine winner in presidential elections

On November 2, 2004 millions of Americans will step inside voting booths to contemplate not only which candidate will be the best leader, but also whether the people's choice will be elected president. In order to prevent disfavored candidates from filling the shoes of the president of the United States, the Electoral College should be abolished as standard procedure for electing a president.

The Electoral College functions in the following manner: electoral votes are assigned to states based on their populations. In order to win all the electoral votes from one state, a candidate must receive a majority of the popular vote. To win an election, a candidate must have 270 out of the possible 538 electoral votes.

One of the most significant faults with the Electoral College is the possibility of a discrepancy between the winner of the electoral votes and the winner of the popular vote. History has shown that in the presidential elections of 1824, 1888, and 2000 the winner of the electoral votes (and the presidency) did not win the popular vote. These examples demonstrate that the Electoral College is not flawless—in fact, it violates the democratic system altogether if the candidate favored by a majority of voters is not the winner. Although defenders of the Electoral College persist that the drafters of the Constitution did not necessarily intend for the popular candidate to win, the logic used by the drafters is not applicable in modern society. The founding fathers had a profound fear that the uninformed voting population could be manipulated into voting for an unqualified candidate: they believed that if wiser representatives voted in the Electoral College, an eligible candidate would win the presidency. Modern education and media solve the dilemma posed for the founding fathers; today's voting population is educated, informed, and capable of choosing a competent leader.

Additionally, the presence of the Electoral College allows candidates to win without winning the approval of a wide variety of people. By appealing only to states such as California (55 votes), Florida (27), Illinois (21), New York (31), Michigan (17), Ohio (20), Pennsylvania (21), Texas (34), New Jersey (15), North Carolina (15), and Georgia (15) a candidate can win the election. Mathematically speaking, the decision made by 11 states can impact the remainder of the 39 states in the union. This system is unjust because votes from individuals in particular states are significantly more meaningful than votes from another state.

Although defenders of the Electoral College assert that the current system allows all states to be proportionately represented, the opposite is true. In reality, smaller states are over represented in a disproportionate manner. Wyoming, with a population of 493, 782 and three electoral votes has 164,594 people represented by one vote. On the other hand, the population of California is 35,484,453, and with 55 electoral votes, 645,171 Californians are represented by one electoral vote. Clearly, an imbalance exists in the division of votes among states; states with larger populations are proportionally (populations divided by votes) underrepresented.

The Electoral College also promotes apathy toward voting because voters of the minority political party in non -"swing" states believe their votes do not have an impact on the overall election. A prime example of the previous scenario is the attitude held by Democratic voters in Indiana. Many are discouraged from voting because overwhelming probability suggests that Indiana will give its electoral votes to the Republican Party.

Besides the maintenance of tradition, no other arguments are justified in defending the use the Electoral College. This ancient system is undemocratic, outdated, and unjust. The Electoral College is uncharacteristic of American principles and should not be used for electing a president in 2008 and subsequent elections. **Editorial Board**
Vote: 3 For 2 Against

The Editorial Review

Censorship in the Lip Sync Contest

Suhasini Bhargava Co - Editor in chief

Showcasing a pathetic display of merely five acts, the Lip Sync contest failed to uphold its reputation as one of the most entertaining events during Homecoming week. A tremendous portion of Lip Sync's failure can be attributed to the censorship of certain performances; two features were deemed inappropriate by individuals who determine which acts are appropriate for the show. Although the administration should have the right to prevent students from being exposed to inappropriate and indecent content in forms of literature, performances, and clothing, perhaps regulations should be lessened during the most spirited week of the school year.

Few high school students are completely naïve and uninformed about popular culture. By censoring certain acts and songs, the administration truly is not preventing students' exposure to sexually explicit lyrics. Similarly, by allowing students to perform to questionable lyrics, the administration is not encouraging the messages incorporated in certain lyrics.

Perhaps next year, a student committee could aid the administration and other Lip Sync officials in determining content for the show. This committee would allow students' voices to be heard about the expression of the culture of America's youth.

Simply put, although the administration's decision to censor certain acts was defensible, the guidelines for censorship were slightly stringent. If exceptions can be made to the dress code for school spirit activities, exceptions can certainly be made to the guidelines for appropriate conduct on stage during Homecoming week.

Starting next year, Lip Sync can be made more enjoyable for students and administration alike through the incorporation of student input in determining content. By no means am I suggesting that the administration refrain from all enforcement of rules during Lip Sync; I simply ask for more flexibility and less demanding guidelines in regards to song lyrics and performances.

photos/jack rozman

Joe Astroski (10) performs his act at this year's Lip Sync contest held during Homecoming week.

Josh Zurawski Co - Editor in chief

Rumors had been flying around leading up to Lip Sync that the contest contained only five acts. I was pretty skeptical (that Lip Sync was only going to encompass five acts), but attended the event with my photographer anyway.

We arrived one act late, but had no trouble finding a seat fairly close to the stage. The previous three Lip Syncs that I had attended had brought a big enough audience to sell out ten minutes before the event started. Clearly, something about my fourth and final Lip Sync was off.

In my three-going-on-four year tenure here, never once have I attended something so silly in all my life. In years past, there were always four or five mediocre acts and about three really fantastic acts. Sure a few of them were controversial, but they were fun. Let's not forget the show is done by the students for the students. The controversial acts have always been mainstream music nearly all students are acquainted with, and the dancing is certainly nothing new either.

I'm a pretty straight arrow type of guy, and most people would agree. Never once though, have I seen an act controversial enough to disqualify. I've been embarrassed for a few of those controversial acts before, but if they want to perform in front of a couple hundred people, let them do it. The next day at school is the best indicator anyway; those kids hear from fellow students if the act was enjoyable or not.

I'm not suggesting the contest should be a free-for-all, but let's face it - the Painted Boys' performance of YMCA was the most enjoyable act in the last four years. It was fun that year. It was worth my time, and more importantly my money that year. Lip Sync as I once knew it is dead, and probably gone forever. So are the proceeds the show choir once made.

Matt Anderson Sports Editor

As I watched from the front row during the Lip Sync contest, I instantly began to feel a sense of regret for spending money on this quickly deteriorating Homecoming event, which, to me, signified the death of the last truly fun part of a week that is supposed to be a celebration but now feels like a routine.

In years' past, pretty much everything has been allowed at the Lip Sync contest, and because of this, some less than school appropriate moments have been allowed to slip into the shows. Still, with every slightly over the line moment, came three amazing acts. I remember looking forward to a Lip Sync contest filled to the brim with top notch peer amusement, and the school could look forward to a packed house.

Well, this year there was a lot less amusement, a lot fewer acts, and pretty much no spectators. But could the school expect any less after only getting five, one of which was cut down considerably, acts? There could have been more, but the staunch guidelines made sure nothing with even the slightest chance to have a sexual flinch made its way into the show that night.

Every year the school becomes a little more weary of what the students will do at the events that are supposed to be fun for us. Powderpuff was the first to go, and I understood because of the escalating costly pranks that seemed to be spiraling out of control. Next, strict guidelines were applied to conduct at dances.

Now Lip Sync has been cut down to a bright and sunny dull fest that lasts approximately 30 minutes and is attended by, well no one. Oh well, now we can just put Lip Sync in line with the rest of the Homecoming events that have been destroyed due to hypersensitivity to one small group's actions.

Dillon Kimmel News Editor

I can honestly say I did not attend the Lip Sync contest this year. The information I do know is based on what people told me following the event.

My freshman year, there were at least ten acts in the Lip Sync concert. The auditorium was sold out a half hour prior to the event. There were a few laughable routines, but most were very good. David Lash (11) sent the auditorium into an uproar that sounded more like a college football game than a laid back concert. From what I hear, this year's was not quite as enjoyable.

There were all of five acts, three of which were respectable I hear, the auditorium was less than half full, and all the students I talked to say they wished they had stayed home.

How could Lip Sync go from being the most anticipated event of Homecoming week to being a complete disaster? That I cannot answer, but the censoring of certain acts seems to be a popular argument.

In recent years, the administration has cracked down on students wishing to include sexual content in their acts. They have limited students to what they can perform to their peers, and it has infuriated some students to the point where they choose not to participate.

If students cannot come up with an act that is clean and appropriate then they should not participate. The administration is fully justified in putting restrictions on what students can perform. If students don't participate, that is their choice, but if an event like Lip Sync falls apart because people can't flaunt their stuff, then maybe we don't deserve to have one.

Christy Landrigan Surplus Editor

Try to name three long-lasting traditions that harbor friendships and creativity, encourage teamwork, reflect student life, allow student expression, and are available for the entire student body to be involved. Good luck.

Increasingly, students are facing barriers when it comes to self expression. A certain degree of restraint is necessary and beneficial to student life, but in an optional attendance performance that is one of two remaining long-held traditions at, a pun on words and foreign lyrics seem hardly to pose a threat of either disruption to or corruption of student life.

Rare is the pep session to which I look forward. The fall pep session featuring the top two Lip Sync acts is one of two all year that I can fully appreciate. This year, having heard rumors about the number and caliber of acts, I made it a point not to spend money to see the bottom four acts when I could see the top two for free.

A line needs to be drawn somewhere between entertainment and lewdness. If the spring musical can feature a brothel as well as descriptive lyrics about what happens to the ladies in the oldest profession, then sexual references in the lyrics of another night of entertainment should be allowed if not obviously offensive. Students are not responsible for the lyrics another person wrote for a song, but they are fully capable of conducting themselves in appropriate ways on stage. If anything, the dancing and costumes should be censored, but, judges, take it easy on the lyrics.

Reputations could be saved and I could be spared the embarrassment of watching naïve girls who think they are being cute or sexy parade around in indecently short skirts if more attention was given to quality of entertainment versus song lyrics.

School uniforms: freedom of expression versus school unity

Staff members present views on benefits and detriments of requiring similar attire for school day

Katie Corson
Writer

It's true that there are certain benefits of school uniforms (studies show school violence decreases, and the end to the eternal question, "what am I going to wear to school?"), but I'm still against them.

For starters, I'm rather picky about my clothes. I like clothes to be trendy, but I'm also very particular about comfort. For example, I might like how a shirt looks, but if it is not comfortable, I will not buy said shirt because I know I will not wear it.

> "I like to have variety, at least in clothing, and I would find wearing uniforms to be boring.

Focusing on school for seven, 47-minute classes each day is hard enough, but add an irritating school uniform and it becomes a lot harder.

It would be practically impossible to design a school uniform that every student at our school could be satisfied with.

For girls, school uniforms normally means a skirt. I'm not against wearing skirts at all, but I will admit that I would not be thrilled to have to wear one every single day.

Everyone has one pair of really comfortable jeans. The ones that are really broken in, and just plain comfortable. Some days I just feel like wearing those jeans, a T-shirt, and a pair of tennis shoes. If I had to wear a uniform, I could not do that.

Clothes really are an expression of oneself, but it is more than just a brand name. To me, it is the freedom to make my own decision.

No one tells my parents what is and is not appropriate for them to wear to work everyday; they must make the decision for themselves. Why should students have to be told what to wear to school everyday?

I also think that it would quickly become very monotonous to have to wear the same clothes everyday to school. I like to have variety, at least in clothing, and I would find wearing uniforms to be boring.

The biggest argument that people make in favor of having school uniforms is that school uniforms are a way of equalizing students. These people think that when everyone wears the same clothing, individuals cannot be teased or made fun of for what they wear.

However, uniforms are not going to change the fact that students will ridicule and make fun of other students. If one person, or a group of people, want to make fun of someone else, a school uniform isn't going to stop them from carrying out their plan.

Instead of the clothes someone wears, people would make fun of what kind of car students drive, the music they listen to, or even the shoes they wear. When one person really wants to make fun of someone else, they will always be able to find something to ridicule that person for.

For parents, uniforms become just another large expense on registration day. For me, wearing a uniform to school would not change the fact that I still want clothes to wear outside of school, so it would end up becoming more expensive than less.

If I already have clothes that meet the dress code requirements and are appropriate, why should I need to wear a uniform? Even though I don't always agree with the dress code, this is the third year I have been able to follow it.

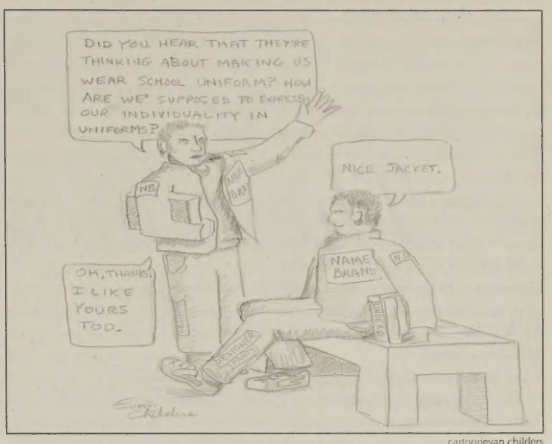
Therefore, if I were to start wearing a uniform my senior year, I would feel as if I were being punished when I had not even done anything wrong--that doesn't sound right to me.

If teachers or students have a problem with what some students are wearing, there are other ways to solve the problem than by creating a school uniform.

In my opinion, some people are simply going to choose to wear inappropriate clothes. That is their decision that they are making for themselves. Their decisions do not affect my decisons.

Therefore, I, as well as every other student at Homestead, should also have the freedom to make my own decision. I have already been taught what is and is not appropriate. I'm a big girl; I think I can dress myself.

Katie Corson is a junior and works a writer for the Spartana. *The views and opinions expressed in this editorial do not necessarily represent those of* the Spartana *or of its staff.*


DID YOU HEAR THAT THEY'RE THINKING ABOUT MAKING US WEAR SCHOOL UNIFORMS? HOW ARE WE SUPPOSED TO EXPRESS OUR INDIVIDUALITY IN UNIFORMS?
NICE JACKET.
NAME BRAND
OH, THANKS I LIKE YOURS TOO.
cartoonevan childers

Alicia Batchelder
Writer

At one point, school uniforms were unheard of in public schools. Now, they have become increasingly common.

I attended Catholic school for ten years, wearing uniforms for each of those years. I have, therefore, seen the differences that uniforms bring to the atmosphere of students within a school, firsthand.

Every morning, upon awakening, a student has to get ready before making his way to school. However, if his school uses uniforms, picking out clothes to wear is just one less thing to do. It is much easier to find a required article of clothing in the morning than to go through an entire closet.

Once the student is ready and makes his way to school, everyone at the school will be wearing similar clothing. This causes less teasing of students because of what they wear. In turn, the lack of teasing will help students to feel more accepted, which, in turn, brings a school community closer.

Once the school community has become more united, there is shown to be a lack of violence. Students feel as though they are closer with their peers. They aren't as prone to feeling secluded and being driven to turning those emotions into violence. It has been proven that within schools requiring uniforms, school fights and muggings decrease substantially. Students have been proven to refrain from theft if their school has instilled uniforms and attendance rates have grown by large increments.

People say that a student who attends a school that mandates uniforms will not be able to freely express himself. However, a uniform does not mean that a student is forced to disregard his individuality. I have found that students are free to wear jewelry as they please, and are able to style their hair however they wish. This privilege may not seem to be much in the scheme of things, but students are not forced to conform nearly as much as some people claim.

When a visitor enters a school that has dress requirements, he will be immediately noticed as not belonging within he group. If he has come into the school with bad intentions, it will be easier for someone to spot the person.

Upon entering adulthood a person will find himself a job where a uniform is required. It has become standard for a company to require of its employees to have a uniform. A requirement for students will help a student to become prepared for the "real world." These students will be used to having a daily uniform, and will not feel as tied down when put into a uniform by their employers.

In 1994, a school district in California became the first to impose school uniforms. Since the district has required the uniforms, crime within schools has decreased by 76%, assaults on school property decreased by 85%, and attendance reached a high of 95%. The success of the Long Beach district brought many other public school districts to require uniforms.

Wearing a uniform to school makes the day go by more easily for many students. They have more time before school to get ready. A student who cannot afford to wear trendy clothing will not be teased, and will be embraced regardless of clothing.

Studies have shown that students, on average, excel in schools with uniforms. It is time for schools throughout the country to see these factors and consider bringing uniforms into their curriculum.

Alicia Batchelder is a senior and works a writer for the Spartana. *The views and opinions expressed in this editorial do not necessarily represent those of* the Spartana *or of its staff.*

Student Input

> "I don't like [school uniforms] because you should be able to wear whatever you want because if they made everyone wear the same thing people wouldn't be able to express themselves.
> Scott Cicero (9)

> "I feel that it would be good because no one would have to worry about what they would have to wear, but it would be bad because everyone would be wearing the same thing.
> Katie Thomas (10)

Letter to the editor

Dear Dr. Smith, Mrs. Moake, and other members of Administration,

I have experienced several problems at Homestead, but inconsistent policy has been the worst. Last year I had to have my wisdom teeth pulled, and the only time I could get scheduled was the weekend before finals. I could not have my teeth pulled after finals, because I had to attend summer school, which begins immediately after normal school session is dismissed. I thought the Administration would be understanding and allow me to take finals early, as I would be in pain and unable to perform to my full potential during regular finals time. My mother wrote a letter kindly asking Mrs. Moake to allow me to take my finals early. My request was denied. Mrs. Moake called my mother and told her that having my wisdom teeth pulled was not a legitimate medical reason to take finals early. So I had no choice but to take finals without pain medication and with painful dry sockets. My concern is not the fact that I was unable to take finals early, but that other people with non-medical excuses could. People who had vacations planned were allowed to take finals early.

> "I have experienced several problems at Homestead, but inconsistent policy has been the worst.
> Laura Raiman (12)

Another thing that makes me question what is acceptable and what is not comes from a student that I know who wrote a fraudulent letter and was excused. He signed his father's name to a letter stating that he would be attending a wedding and "the father's son" needed to take his finals early. If I am not mistaken, the principal is supposed to call the parent to verify these situations. Had the principal called the father that supposedly wrote the letter, she would have known that the boy does not even talk to his father and wanted to take finals early to go on a week's getaway with his friends. My mother received a phone call to let her know that my situation was not excusable, but this boy's "father" did not even received a phone call to check the validity of the letter.

The most recent incident of inconsistency involved Homestead's Lip Sync Contest. Three other girls and I had planned to lip sync to "Lady Marmalade." Our act was refused because of "inappropriate" lyrics. An act using the song "Happy Boys, Happy Girls" was accepted. This song contained far more "explicit" lyrics that "Lady Marmalade" and yet that act was included! If there are specific guidelines for our song and different guidelines for their song, please allow me to see these guidelines so that I may understand.

The issue is not that I was unable to take finals early and not that I was not accepted into the Lip Sync Contest. The issue is the inconsistency of the Administration's decisions. I have been treated unfairly and hope that other students will benefit from my speaking up on the present issue.

—Laura Raiman

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The Spartana is a biweekly production of the Journalism 3/4 class at Homestead High School. Its purpose is to enlighten, educate, and entertain. *The Spartana* has and may continue to operate as a limited open forum for the free exchange of ideas.

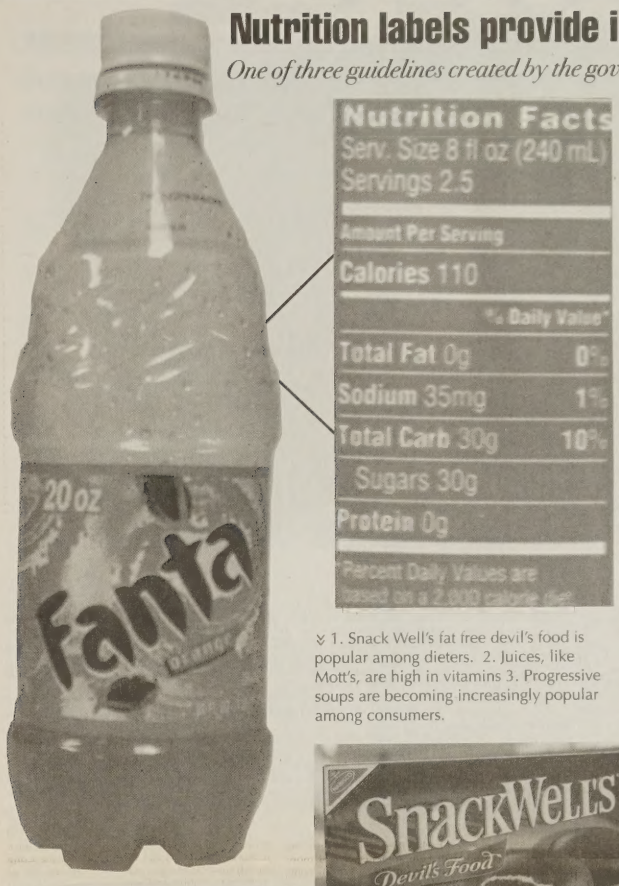
Profanity may appear in *the Spartana* with the approval of the advisor, but only in cases of direct quotations or if it is necessary for clarity. Material which is libelous or obscence and could cause substantial and material disruption, as defined by the Supreme Court, will not be printed.

Public input will be accepted in the form of letters to the editor. Letters must follow standards concerning liable or obscenity. Those which could cause substantial and material disruption, as defined by the Supreme Court will not be printed.

Staff members of *the Spartana* support the First Amendment rights and oppose censorship in any form. The content of the paper is determined by the student staff. In cases of potentially controversial material the editorial board will meet to decide the content of the newspaper. Students will be assisted by the advisor in areas of professional ethics and legalities.

Nutrition labels provide information about serving sizes

One of three guidelines created by the government, food labels allow students to eat healthier



» 1. Snack Well's fat free devil's food is popular among dieters. 2. Juices, like Mott's, are high in vitamins 3. Progressive soups are becoming increasingly popular among consumers.

Dillon Kimmel
News Editor

Teenagers have always been notorious for their gluttonous lifestyles and awful eating habits. This problem is blatantly evident here, where many students' daily lunches consist of greasy potato chips and fattening cinnamon rolls. Students can improve eating habits and maintain healthy lifestyles by reading nutrition labels and understanding the dietary guidelines.

The nutrition label consists of two parts. The main or top portion contains product-specific information (calories, serving size, and nutrient information) that varies with each different product. According to the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), the serving size is the first thing that people should look for when looking at a food label. Serving sizes are based on an average adult female's intake, which is 2000 calories per day.

"Pay attention to the serving size, including how many servings there are in the food package, and compare it to how much you actually eat," the FDA website says.

The bottom part of the food label contains a footnote. The footnote only shows up on larger packages and provides general dietary information about important nutrients. The footnote contains the daily values. These are based on expert dietary advice about how much of the key nutrients one should eat each day. These include total and saturated fat, cholesterol, sodium, carbohydrates and dietary fiber.

Family and consumer sciences teacher Denise Geller teaches the importance of food labels in her class Nutrition and Wellness: Foods I. Geller stresses the importance of eating healthy and getting an adequate daily allowance of each food in the food pyramid.

"Most students follow the food pyramid backwards," Geller said. "They eat far too much junk and not enough nutrients our body actually needs."

Geller agrees that students should pay close attention to the serving sizes. She points out that serving sizes have increased dramatically since the 1970s, and it is becoming increasingly difficult to manage the servings students eat. Fast food restaurants such as Burger King and McDonald's offer Biggie sizes, which far exceed the suggested serving sizes. Along with watching serving sizes, Geller says students are not getting nearly enough calcium.

"Students are not getting enough calcium, and it is important that they get more because of their age," Geller said. "They are replacing milk with pop, which has little nutritional value."

To counter this problem she suggests adding plenty of milk and dairy products to students' daily diets. This addition in turn will severely limit the chance of osteoporosis or other bone-related diseases later in life. Also, she checks the sodium on the food label. Limiting a student's sodium intake can reduce the risk of high blood pressure.

The FDA is planning to add to the food label in the next couple of years. These additions include a daily limit on sodium (2400 to 2300 milligrams). Food labels now give the amount of the nutrients in each serving size, and they have made an effort to standardize all serving sizes. These suggestions are still in the process of being approved.

In order for students to live a healthy life, Geller points out several things that need to be changed. First, refined sugars should be avoided. Students should also increase their intake of whole grains. Also, she points out that students should choose their carbohydrates wisely.

"Consume a variety of foods," Geller said. "Don't live on one kind of food. Having a balanced diet will help calorie intake and help maintain body weight."

Salubrious Information

Many foods claim to be low-fat or reduced fat these days. However, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has certain regulations for determining what is and is not low fat. The regulations are as follows:

- **Fat-free:** *less than one-half gram of fat per serving.*
- **Low fat:** *3 grams of fat or less per serving.*
- **Reduced fat:** *25% less of the specific nutrient's calories than the usual product.*
- **Light:** *one-third fewer calories or one-half the fat of the normal food.*

? ?

Words from your Student Government

We are currently working on a policies and procedures manual to better organize Student Government.

Semi-formal is just around the corner and will be held at the Coliseum again this year.

If you have any questions, concerns, or issues that you would like addressed you can call Student Government at **431.2942** or e-mail them at **HHSStuGov@sacs.k12.in.us**.

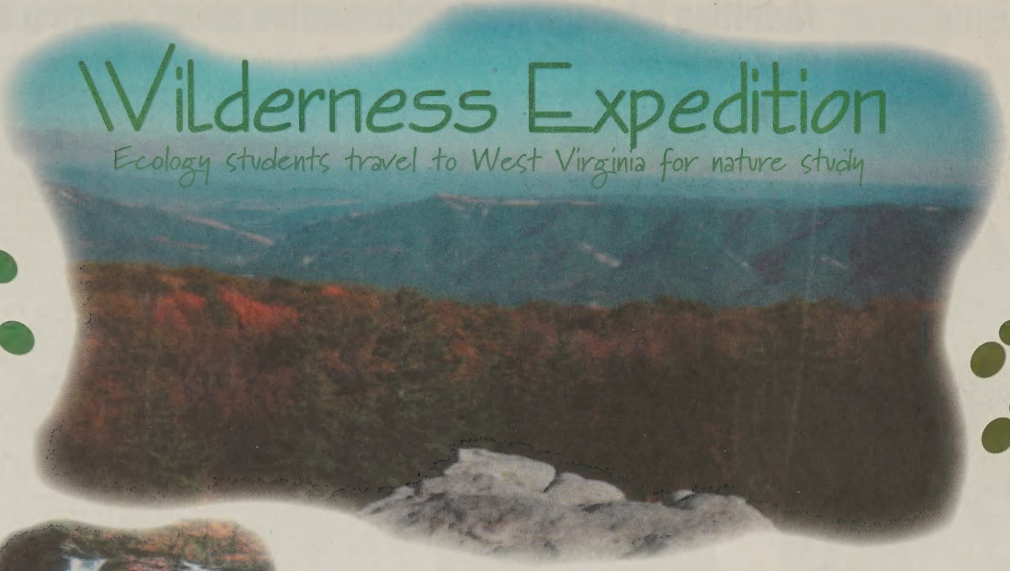
Other Recognition/Awards

Student Rotarians from the senior class and the junior class were announced. Approximately 35 students from each class were nominated and seven seniors and seven juniors won the honor. Senior winners included **Katie Beck (12)**, **Jill DeArmond (12)**, **Kristin Thomas (12)**, **Tyler Keena (12)**, **Jillian Burkhart (12)**, **Rachel Trevino (12)**, and **Jaime Blosser (12)**. Recipients of the award from the junior class included **Javed Sayed (11)**, **Abhi Vemula (11)**, **Ashley Burkhart (11)**, **Whitney Johnson (11)**, **Anna Menze (11)**, **Amanda Junk (11)**, and **Michaela Miller (11)**.

Katie Beck (12) was chosen as the DAR (Daughters of the American Revolution) Good Citizen.

Wilderness Expedition

Ecology students travel to West Virginia for nature study



Larry Buchanan
Associate Surplus Editor

Every year ecology teacher Douglas Waldman tries to take his Ecology I and Ecology II classes on a trip to West Virginia. The West Virginia trip this year was held from October 7 until October 11.

Waldman first discusses the trip with all of his ecology classes and then opens the trip up to whoever wishes to go. Waldman did schedule a second trip, which he does not always have the opportunity to do. The trip was cancelled, however, due to a lack of chaperones. Waldman hopes to make up the trip sometime in the spring.

Students in Ecology I were given an information sheet and an application to fill out, in order to participate in the trip. The total cost of the trip was $160.00.

On Thursday, October 7, the group gathered at 1:00 p.m. to load up the vans and begin their journey. Waldman, accompanied by Steve Bushong, science teacher, drove two 15 passenger vans across southern Ohio, headed to West Virginia. When they arrived in West Virginia they stayed at the Red Roof Inn at Parkersburg. The following two days were to be filled with hiking and backpacking in the West Virginia wilderness.

The Monogahela National Forest was their destination. The forest is located in eastern West Virginia and stretches over 830,000 acres of the Allegheny Mountain Range. This forest also contains the highest peak in West Virginia, Spruce Knob. The forest is also well known for its wilderness area, Dolly Sods. This is an excellent example of the tundra in the eastern United States.

Students spent two and a half days hiking over and through this rugged terrain, admiring the beauty around them. This trip was also very unique for a number of reasons. Waldman said that the scenery was at its height this trip and the weather was impeccable.

"The color [of the forest] was probably the best I have seen in 10 or 15 years," Waldman said.

He also added that the unusually early color change could be attributed to the summer, and the hurricanes.

Waldman also has a bet going with students who go on the trip with him. There is a "hill", as he calls it, at the end of the hike, whoever attempts to "run the hill" and succeeds gets a free dinner, compliments of Waldman. The only catch is that one has to jog the entire hill and if one would happen to fail, he has to buy dinner for Waldman.

"Let's just say I haven't bought many dinners," Waldman said.

Leslie Straessle (10) was the only one who successfully ran the hill.

"That is definitely not just a hill," Molly Rodenbeck (10) said. "It's like five mountains in a row, with thorns and bushes. It was real hard."

Rodenbeck failed to "run" the hill the first time, but she was so determined that she tried to run it again.

"She got a little farther than she did the first time," Waldman said.

The trip has an impact on students, providing them with the opportunity to see a type of environment that many would never have the opportunity to see otherwise.

"The trip was probably the best thing I have ever done in my life," Melissa Emmons (10) said. "It was so different from any other trip I have gone on. I just want to say that anyone who tried to run up that "hill" will always be my hero."

Waldman has been teaching at Southwest Allen County Schools for 33 years. All in all, he estimates that he has taken students on about 45 trips to West Virginia.

"The reason I take kids on these trips is because they get to see a different part of the country and a different forest," Waldman said. "They can see and learn by doing it. This enables kids to do something that they may never have the chance to do."

Asher awarded Lilly Grant; spends three weeks researching RADAR in England, France

Alicia Batchelder
Writer

World War II brought about many advances in technology. One such advancement was RADAR, which stands for Radio Detection And Ranging. RADAR was developed before WWII as a warning system during battle.

Radio and English teacher, Joe Asher, went on a trip to Europe to study RADAR.

Asher was one of 100 teachers, guidance counselors, library or media specialists, and administrators to be awarded a Lilly Grant from the Eli Lilly Cooperation, so that he would be able to make the summer trip. He became one of many past winners from this school.

The grant gave him $7,500 for an independent project, allowing him to spend four weeks in England, and one in France, during the summer to study the history and development of RADAR.

"I wanted to bring my two main interests, history and radio, together," Asher said. "These two things put together is RADAR. I wanted to improve my approach to teaching."

RADAR sends radio waves and waits for the echo to come back. It then distinguishes if there is an enemy aircraft or ship near by the amount of time it takes for the echo to return.

This was important during WWII, because it helped England to know when attackers were near, as well as helping the country to defend itself against the German armies.

Many radio techs during the time period of the war were teenagers. The dedication of these teenagers made the difference between winning the war and losing it.

Asher was allowed, by the Eli Lilly Corporation, to spend two days studying in the WWII archives in the Imperial War Museum in London and at Bawdsey Manor, where RADAR was first developed.

"The entire trip was really neat, because it was like going back in time," Asher said.

He spent time driving around the country, and stopped to take pictures of the different radar buildings.

One stop he made was on a farm in England. Asher explained the purpose of his trip to the farmers, and was invited to have tea and pineapple cake, while discussing the history of radar.

"After we finished our tea, they allowed me to look through the buildings even though they hadn't met me before," Asher said.

The entire trip, however, was not dedicated to studying and researching. Asher spent a significant amount of time enjoying himself and exploring England and France.

"I went to world class theatres," Asher said. "I got to see a production of Les Miserables in London. I had already seen the school's production [during the spring], and our show was so good that it could have been put on in London and done well,"

"I went across to France and actually went to places where I was required to speak French," Asher said. "I don't speak much French, but I survived."

Traveling by himself, Asher had the opportunity to spend a lot of time by himself, and was able to spend that time reflecting over the war and over the different things that he had observed and studied over his trip.

"I walked along the English Channel coast," Asher said. "I'll never forget the courage of the people that wanted to save their country."

"I learned a lot about the history of England's defense against Germany in the war, which was really interesting to me," Asher said.

Now that school has begun again and Asher is back to teaching, he is planning to work with the history and science departments.

Asher hopes to share his experiences, so that other teachers are able to further learn through what he has done. He is also working on developing a RADAR portion to add to his radio class.

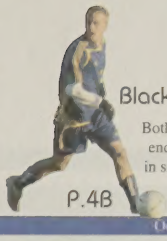
The trip was an extraordinary experience for Asher. Not only did he take the opportunity to experience the culture in Europe and learn about RADAR, but upon returning, he also gained a new appreciation for what it means to be home.

"It was fantastic," Asher said. "Actually, it was so neat that I'm thinking about taking my children to Europe sometime in the near future. However, Homestead is home for me. I've realized what a blessing it is to be part of such a great faculty and a great school."

» Joe Asher, English and radio teacher, stopped in Paris during his radio research.

Volleyball falters
Spartans lose in a tight second round match to Huntington North
P.2B

Sports



Black Thursday
Both soccer teams end their season in similar fashion
P.4B

Issue 4 • the Spartana • October 29, 2004

Soccer girls lose sectional after four-game win streak

Girls play last game against Bishop Luers on Black Thursday

Joe Salisbury
Writer

After several athletic teams' competition seasons were done and over, the girls soccer team continued to play away in hopes of winning state. With a four game winning streak going into sectionals, they had a lot of confidence and believed that they could go far. Unfortunately, the girls lost to Bishop Luers on Thursday, October 14.

"I am pretty confident just because we have a lot of potential with the girls we have," Brittany Trevino (12) said. "We are all ready to get out there and win so if we keep the positive attitudes up we should go far, and hopefully go all the way to state for another year."

After falling to Carroll on September 20th, the team regrouped and prepared for an important game against Snider. The girls responded to the loss and beat the Panthers 3-1, with Kathryn Zachman (11) scoring two goals and Alyssa Lee (11) adding one more. In a conference match against Norwell, the Spartans came out hard and got a 5-0 half time lead on their way to an 8-0 victory. The entire team got into the offense, with eight different players contributing either a goal or assist. Zachman once again had two goals, along with an assist. On October 2nd the team played at Bishop Luers in their second to last regular season game. Once again, Zachman lead the team with three goals on their way to a convincing 4-0 victory. Finally, on October 4th, the girls had their last regular season game against New Haven. With sectionals on their mind, they pounded out a 7-0 win. Jillian Burkhart (12) had two goals for the Spartans.

With an experienced team with nine seniors, they were ready to go into sectionals with a good and optimistic attitude. The seniors were prepared to help lead the younger players and hopefully have a lot of success.

"I would say that many of the seniors have stepped up this year and are showing great leadership roles," Trevino said. "They are helping many of the younger players become confident in their abilities and be comfortable on the field in a big game."

The team began the quest for qualifying for the state tournament on October 13th, at home against Manchester. Next they played against Bishop Luers.

"If Columbia City beats Luers we will have some competition with them because they have gotten a lot stronger over the past couple of years but overall we can't really rule anyone out because anything can happen," Trevino said.

The loss to Luers crushed hope for the girls to play for the state championship in Indianapolis.

Cross country's trail of triumph

GIRLS MOVE THROUGH REGIONALS, THEN QUALIFY FOR STATE COMPETITION

photo: zach hetrick

Josh Butcher
Writer

With goals being achieved, and personal records being broken, the girls cross country team is ending out the season strong. The ladies placed second in the Northeast Hoosier Conference and took the sectional championship. The team is very young but still has a veteran, Bliss Cook (12). As one of the top runners for the team, Cook led the way.

"My biggest goal was getting first team all conference, and I was really excited when I accomplished that," Cook said. "It has been a goal for a couple years. Some other goals are qualifying for state as a team and as a individual."

Cook has shown her leadership on the team this year and will be a big loss for the girls next season. Part of the reason she has done so well is psychological readiness.

"Meets are a whole different mind set than practice," Cook said. "Once I step on that line I'm focused."

She even follows the same routine every race day.

"On race days I eat Chinese food for lunch," Cook said. "I listen to CDs beforehand and I don't talk much and stay quiet until after the race. I get in a mental zone."

Another key member of the squad has been Kelsey Knapp (9).

"For me I thought it was a pretty good year," Knapp said. "Since this is my first year for high school, I didn't have any expectations so I was happy. Our team is doing well, we have struggled some meets but we usually pull it together. We have five freshmen and three sophomores so we're a kind of young team."

> For me I thought it was a pretty good year. Our team is doing well, we have struggled some meets but we usually pull it together.
> Kelsey Knapp

One of the members on the team, Hannah Smith (10), has contributed to the team as an alternate. Like the rest of the team she is just as focused with the same goals.

"My goal was to be an alternate for varsity and I accomplished that," Smith said. "Hopefully we can make it to state this year." The goal to get to state seems to be a mutual goal.

"Well the team goals were to make it to state and place second in conference," Knapp said. "Sure enough we got second in conference and we made it to regionals so hopefully we make it to state."

The girls have faced many tough competitors this year, including Carroll.

"Carroll was one of our biggest competitors," Cook said. "They are ranked high in the state. So were Concordia and Northridge."

The long season has brought many great moments and has prepared the young team for next year. "The best moment was when Joy Nordin (11) faked an ankle injury the night before sectionals and coach got real mad," Knapp said. They have had many great moments together on and off the course.

The girls cross country team competed in semi-state on Saturday, October 23. Results were unavailable as of press time.

» From top to bottom, Spartan girls cross country members run during a race. With Bliss Cook (12) leading, runners make their way through a race.
« Brittany Trevino (12) goes for a pass to a teammate during a soccer game against Bishop Luers High School.

Tennis finishes the season with loss in semi-state

» Greg Dillon hits the ball during a match against Wayne.

Tyler Keena
Writer

After an impressive regular season and solid postseason, which including their 26 straight sectional championship and a regional championship, the boys tennis team's season came to an end in the first round of semi-state play.

The team recently followed up their sectional victory, which has become an expected accomplishment for the team in recent years, with a regional championship, advancing the team to semi-state play. In regional play, the Spartans defeated South Side 3-2 in the first round and followed this victory by beating Bishop Dwenger 4-1 in the championship.

At semi-state on October 9 at home, the team lost their first round to West Lafayette in a close 3-2 match that could have gone either way.

"It was a really tough match for our team that we would have liked to win, but we would have had to play Delta, who is really tough, the next match to go on to state," Tyler Freeland (11) said.

The West Lafayette team that vanquished the Spartans went on to lose to Delta in the championship of semi-state 4-1.

Overall, the team members feel as though they have had an extremely successful career after winning the Northeast Hoosier Conference championship, extending their streak of sectional championships, and following those wins with two victories in regional play, one of which was against a team (Southside High School) that had beat the Spartans 3-2 earlier in the regular 2004 season.

Aside from the accomplishments of the team as a whole, many players received individual recognition for their performance throughout the year. Greg Dillon (10) and Cameron Huffman (10) received first team all-conference honors at one singles and two singles respectively, while Danny Reecer (9) received second team all-conference at three singles. Matt Anderson (12) and Freeland received first team all-conference honors at one doubles.

photo:zach hetrick

» Cameron Huffman (10) moves to hit the ball against Wayne. Below: Tyler Freeland (11) reacts during a game. Left: Matt Anderson (12) follows through on his swing.

photo:zach hetrick

Quarterback Matt Witham (12) takes it up the gut while evading New Haven defenders. The team lost to the Bulldogs.

Varsity football team loses to New Haven, plays in sectional

Spartans suffer rough season this year with unexpected loss against Norwell Knights

Katie Corson
Writer

After getting off to a rocky start, the varsity football team went on a winning streak. After losing to East Noble, the team won three consecutive games against Columbia City, Bellmont, and Dekalb, making their record 4-2.

On October 1st, the team traveled to Carroll where they accomplished a 34 - 22 win. The Spartans got out to an early lead, making the score 34 to 10 at the half. Carroll's offense picked up in the second half though, raising their score to 22, while the Spartans remained scoreless.

Tim Reid (12) led the team in rushing yards with an overall gain of 81 yards, including a touchdown. Following Reid was Ryan Rahrig (12) who ran for 57 yards and also scored a touchdown.

Kenneth Perkins (11), Matt Witham (12), Taylor Kinzer (11), and Jordan Wise (10) also carried the ball for the Spartans, while Nick Johnston (11) and Justin Schoenle (11) each scored touchdowns off of fumbles.

The team also played well defensively, causing three turnovers.

Wise and Johnston each had interceptions as well.

"I think that our defense is one of our greater strengths," cornerback, Matt Mikulecky (11) said. "We're very motivated. Some of our best players are on defense."

The team also had four sacks by Dustin Stalling (12), Midas Moore (11), Brian Laipple (10), and Justin Allen (12).

"In a varsity game, you have to think a lot faster [than in a JV or freshman game]," Laipple, defensive end, said. "Usually, if you make a mistake in a freshman game, you are able to make up for it. It's not like that for varsity; if you mess up, everyone is going to know."

Unfortunately for the Spartans, their success against Carroll did not carry over to their match up against Norwell. Although the team's rushing game was strong, racking up a total of 243 yards [rushing] to the Knight's 62, they were unable to come through victoriously, losing 7 to 9.

"I think we took the Norwell game too lightly," Witham, quarterback and co-captain, said. "We weren't serious at practice that week. They came ready to play, and we just weren't."

The Spartans' one touchdown was scored by Trevor Terrell (11), who ran for a total of 35 yards during the game. Other ball carriers included Perkins with 87 yards, Reid with 60 yards, Kinzer with 47, as well as Witham and Wise each with 7 yards.

"Coach Zolman wanted us to be more intense this year and I think we've done that," Witham said. "I think we've improved every week."

Despite the three loses, many players feel that their new head coach, Chad Zolman, has been a positive addition to the team.

"Zolman has turned up the intensity a lot," Laipple said. "Over the summer, our workouts were pretty intense; a lot of players got a lot stronger. He's intense, but he is a good coach and I respect him a lot."

The team is also appreciative of the new turf on the field.

"I think you can run faster," David Meyers (12), linebacker and co-captain said. "You can grip well, and there's less bumps in it. I'm grateful to the people who made it all possible."

The Spartans had one last regular season game against New Haven, at home on October 15th, before the start of sectionals.

Jarrod Shaw (12) waits for the snap. Tim Reid (12) runs down the sideline. Andy Parker (12) goes down after catching a pass. Kenneth Perkins (11) shows his frustration.

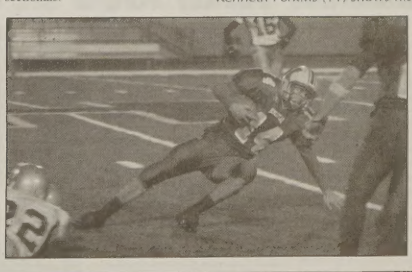


photo:zach hetrick

Varsity volleyball team hoped to win sectional

Girls dug deep during conference season to prepare for post season games

Tyler Keena
Writer

After an undefeated start in their first five games within the Northeast Hoosier Conference (NHC), the girls volleyball team faltered at the end of the season, but still managed a second place finish in conference.

The team's first conference loss came in an away game against Bellmont. The team lost 3-1, but almost managed a comeback after getting off to a slow 2-0 start. Jill DeArmond (12), setter, led the Spartans with 27 assists and nine digs, while Erica McMahon (11), outside hitter, led the team with nine kills.

After the loss to Bellmont, the team needed to beat a tough Norwell team to take the lead in conference. However, the team suffered a tough 3-0 defeat. DeArmond led the team with 14 assists and four kills. Danielle Gauthier (10), outside hitter, also pitched in four kills.

Despite the loss, the team was still looking forward to their remaining regular season games, and their upcoming sectional match-ups.

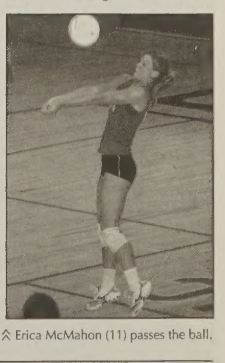
"We were really excited about possibly winning conference after we started out undefeated," McMahon said. "We just had a couple of tough losses, but we still finished second and the season isn't over yet."

The team left their quick recovery from their back-to-back conference losses and beat South Side easily 3-0 in their first of three straight games. DeArmond had 17 assists and a team-leading nine kills, while Gauthier had eight digs as the team breezed through the Archers.

The Spartans could not continue their winning ways for long. They lost their next game the following night to Northrop 3-1. Gauthier led the team with six kills and DeArmond also had 19 digs. Despite their best efforts, the team could not manage more than 13 points in three of the four games.The next day was the team's last home game and thus was senior night. The Spartans honored their only senior and future Ohio University Bobcat, DeArmond, before the game against Leo. DeArmond came up with 25 assists in the game, but this was not enough to get the team a victory on her senior night. The team lost the closely contested match 3-1. McMahon and Gauthier each had eight kills and Gauthier also led the team in digs with seven.

Despite back-to-back losses heading into sectionals, the team is still looking forward for a few postseason victories. The Spartans sectional tournament began on October 21 at South Side. The girls will faced the hosting South Side team in their first match. Then, if the team would continue to win through the tournament, they would face the winner of Huntington North and North Side, followed by the winner of Northrop and Snider.

"We have a pretty easy sectional draw," McMahon said. "We're looking forward to playing and we like our chances of winning."



Erica McMahon (11) passes the ball.

Boys cross country team competes at sectional, Clark qualifies for semi-state at IPFW

Sam Van Horn
Writer

After a strenuous season, the boys cross country team looked forward to the Woodlan Sectional held at IPFW on October 12. Eleven teams competed in the race and only the top five would move on to the regional, along with the top fifteen runners as well.

The team came into the sectional looking to advance to the next round after their regular season. However, the other teams were very capable of knocking the Spartans out of the competition. Steve Clark (11) led the way for the Spartans, as he has done all year long, finishing eleventh. Clark completed the race with a time of 16:47, moving on to the regional. However, his teammates Ross Schomburg (12) and Ben Townsend (11) finished the event in 16th and 17th place. Schomburg completed the race in 16:57 and Townsend in 16:59. Both Schomburg and Townsend missed the cut off for the regional by only a few places.

Also placing were Chris Miller (11), with a time of 17:42. Brian Graham (9) ended the event with a time of 17:53. Miller and Graham finished back to back with 38th and 39th place. Dillon Kimmel (10) ran for a time of 18:10 and finished in 46th place.

"We gave it everything we had," Danny White (10) said about the sectional. "We tried our best."

The team ended with a score of 121 and finished their season placing sixth in the sectional. They missed their cut-off by one place, not being able to advance any further.

"We did the best we could," Danny White (10) said. "We're going to practice hard and get ready for next year."

> We did the best we could. We're going to try to practice really hard and get ready for next year.
> Danny White (10)

Despite the rest of the team completing their season, Clark moved on and competed in the Regional held at Bellmont on October 16. The top 15 runners from most teams in the area competed in the event. The competition was strong, but Clark was able to finish among the top. He finished 14th with a time of 17:09. Just edging by, he competed as semi-state on October 23 at IPFW. The top runners from Northern Indiana contended in the race, as the field of talent continued to grow.

"He's running very well," White said about Clark. "We'll all be cheering for him at semi-state."

So despite finishing their season, the rest of the team is getting ready for next year. In addition, with only Schomburg leaving after this season, most of the team will be returning, including six juniors and nine sophomores. The boys cross country team will be full of talent and the expectations will be high.

After all the hard work they put into practice this season, they will have to wait one more year to get another shot at sectionals, and hopefully finish one place ahead of where they finished this season. One of the advantages the team will enjoy next year will be an experienced core group of runners. Next year's leaders will include Clark, Townsend, and Miller.

"I think we can make it to state [next year]," White said.

photo:zach hetrick

Ryan Cicero (10) runs the ball during the defeat of New Haven. The JV team finished the season undefeated.

Undefeated Underclassmen

Caitlin Myers
Writer

During the middle school years, sports are mainly played for fun or for an activity to do after school, but in high school, there is more competition. For any team to win a few games here and there is great, but to win every game the entire season is definitely a goal of many high school athletes. On October 16th, the JV boys football finally achieved this goal, concluding their season with the perfect record of 9-0, after their final win against New Haven.

"Expectations are always high to win at the JV level," Coach Shawn Harkness said. "I see no reason why we couldn't have finished the season 9-0."

Their past four games started on September 25th, where they played DeKalb and won 30-14. On October 2nd, they played Carroll and won 6-0, and October 9th, they played Norwell and won 33-6. Then their last game was played on October 16th, in which they played New Haven, and won 27-8.

"A lot of the boys just use Saturday mornings to improve their skills," Harkness said, referring to their Saturday morning games.

Their last game against New Haven was their last opportunity to show the coaches what they are made in hopes the coaches will pick them to play varsity next year. During this game, Gerelle Ladner (10) had two touchdown runs, Ryan Cicero (10) had one touchdown run, and Pat Muhler (10) had one touchdown run on a reverse. Most of the players, if not all of them, will go on to play on the varsity team next season.

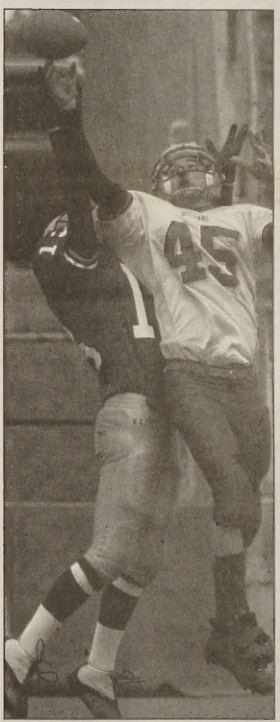
"It's their chance to prove themselves to the coaches for playing time next season," Harkness said.

Now that their season is finished, the JV boys will go on to practice with the varsity and some of them will go continue to play in the upcoming sectional games. One of the main goals for the JV's team is to focus on practicing their skills and increasing their ability to play better so that they will have a chance to play during one of the varsity games.

"I think the record speaks for itself," Harkness said, regarding to the results of the JV season.

Every year the boys put long, hard hours into football practice, and team bonding, and hope that their season will end up like this one has. It's safe to say that their hard work has paid off for the 2004 season.

Patrick Muhler (10) runs with the ball at a JV game.



Bryce Heckber (11) reaches to intercept the pass.

photo:zach hetrick

Gerelle Ladner (10) pushes through the New Haven Bulldogs defense to go on and help the Spartans with their final defeat. The game was held on October 9, 2004, and it was the last one for the JV team.

Girls JV volleyball maintains strong outlook despite losing

Tim Clark
Writer

Many athletes will say that "It's not if you win a game; it's how you play the game." The belief that winning isn't everything, in high school, as well as professional athletics is often forgotten in high-pressure competition. The most important thing for most competitors is that individuals become better as a team and improve themselves everyday. If athletes do that, then they've already achieved a winning season.

This much can be said for the JV volleyball team. The team, although they did not have a great season in respect to wins and losses, has improved throughout the season.

The JV volleyball team has had some tough times, but has also come together more as a team as the season progressed. The team is made up of all sophomores and one freshman.

"I think our season is going well," Molly Rodenbeck said (10). "We have improved since the beginning of the season."

The team is led by a few players who share time between JV and varsity. Anna Huguenard (10) is one of them.

"I know that I got a lot better this year," Huguenard said. "I feel prepared to be on varsity (full time) now."

JV volleyball mainly focuses on fundamentals and prepares the young girls for more rigorous testing in the varsity ranks. Stressing team-work and basic fundamentals are some of the most important things that a JV team can achieve in their time together. The team practices daily for two hours during the season, with two-three games per week.

"We've started to work well as a team," Rodenbeck said.

As well as team work, good coaching is a key thing in advancing players from the JV level to the varsity level. The volleyball coaching staff consists of three coaches: Jackie Pitzer, a 2003 graduate, Matt McCarter, and Robert Ochoa. McCarter mainly teaches the JV squad.

"I think that Matt was a good coach and he really helped our fundamentals this year," Huguenard said.

Most of the team's players have had some experience before participating in high school athletics. Huguenard played "throughout middle school and in a club for three years." Many of this year's JV team look to participate in varsity next year. "I will be trying out next year for a setting position," Huguenard said.

The JV team has become much stronger as the year went on and finished out their season with some wins, giving them some drive for next year as most of the girls look forward to playing full time on varsity.

JV team roster

ANNA HUGUENARD (10)
MOLLY RODENBECK (10)
CHELSEA GARTON (10)
ERICA MERRIFIELD (10)
STEPHANIE MITCHELL (10)
ALLISON MACKE (10)
MERIDETH ELBECHT (9)
STACY RORICK (10)
FRANCESCA CARDILLO (10)
CHELSEY ORMSBY (10)
LAUREN CLEAVER (10)

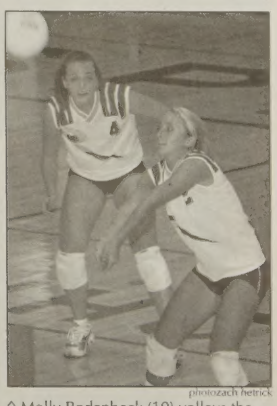


photo:zach hetrick

Molly Rodenbeck (10) volleys the ball to a teammate during a game.

JILLIAN BURKHART

KASEY STEARNS

BLACK THURSDAY STRIKES SOCCER SENIORS DURING EARLY SECTIONAL PLAY

STORY BY TYLER KEENA
PHOTOS BY ZACH HETRICK AND JACK ROZMAN

Thursday, October 14, 2004. This day will live in infamy in the minds of numerous students. For it was on this day that Spartan athletics suffered a crushing blow in perhaps the single worst day in the school's sporting history. Black Thursday, as it has come to be known afterward, started as soon as school was dismissed. Students arrived at Canterbury High School for a tailgate in the parking lot in anticipation of the semifinal sectional soccer game between the Spartans and the Canterbury Cavaliers that was not scheduled to begin for over two more hours. The rivalry between the two schools had escalated to a new high in the last year. In the 2003 sectional tournament, Shane Connolly (12), then a junior, scored the famous game-winning goal to take down Canterbury with seven seconds remaining in the second and final overtime. The shot was celebrated around by fans around the school, who wore "Viva la Shane" shirts in honor of Connolly's game-winner. Since that game, both fans and players alike were looking forward to the two rematches that would occur in the following year. The first game between the Spartans and Cavaliers did not disappoint, as the Spartans managed to come back from a two goal deficit and the game ended in a 3-3 tie. Some were disappointed by the tie, but there must be a winner in sectional play. The next game would not end in a tie. Game time had arrived and the rivalry was easily visible in the action on the field and in the stands. Each team gave everything they had on the field, but still the game remained scoreless and went into overtime. The overtime consisted of two seven-minute periods, and during the first period, Canterbury managed a goal on the rebound of a Phil Hershberger (12) save. But Adam Hakey (12) managed to tie the game with 1:18 left in the second overtime. The stage was set for an incredible shootout. The shootout did not disappoint either, as three of the five shooters scored for both teams, sending the shootout into sudden death. To make this disappointing story short, Canterbury won on the second shooter of sudden death. Many seniors had played in their last game as a Spartan. Fans and players were shocked that the incredibly talented team had lost so early. After the game, many fans moped back to school to catch the tail end of the volleyball game and support the team's lone senior, Jill DeArmond (12), on her senior night. However, the Spartans could not pull off the win against Leo, further adding to the disappointment of the fans.

Looking for some sort of salvation from the already terrible night, fans wandered over to the Spartan soccer field to make sure that at least the girls soccer team had won their game. This was not the case and the game was in the first overtime period and was also scoreless. However, no goals were scored throughout overtime and this game went into a shootout as well. The Spartans were beat out in the shootout after making only two goals. Their season had also came to a bitter end to Bishop Luers, 4-0. Also, in the sectional game, we had about 21 shots to their three. It was just so upsetting because we played well and the final score didn't reflect the game. We may have gone in a little overconfident though," Spartan fans and players all witnessed and participated in perhaps the most disappointing night in the school's athletic history. Both soccer teams, which were incredibly talented and had high expectations for postseason play, failed to make it out of sectional play. The most anticipated Spartan sporting event of the season was a disappointment. Neither the volleyball team nor the girls soccer team was able to lift the spirits of the fans. There were no shirts made in celebration of any victories on this night. Two of the most talented teams ever to play at Homestead lost in dramatic fashion to end their season in the same night. After watching both soccer teams throughout the season, to see their seasons end so abruptly was completely unexpected and only added to the disappointment. "Despite our tough sectional loss, we were proud of our season and our 15-3-1 record," Phil Hershberger (12) said. Unfortunately, the great seasons that both teams experienced and the incredible talent that each team possessed will not be remembered. Their Thursday losses will overshadow the plethora of wins that each team collected. One would think this incredible senior class would be remembered by trophies and pictures lining the halls of the school. Either team may have been favored to play and perhaps win in the state championship game. But apparently the better teams were not meant to win that night. Black Thursday killed all hope.

BEN HAIFLEY

BRITTANY TREVINO

SHANE CONNOLLY

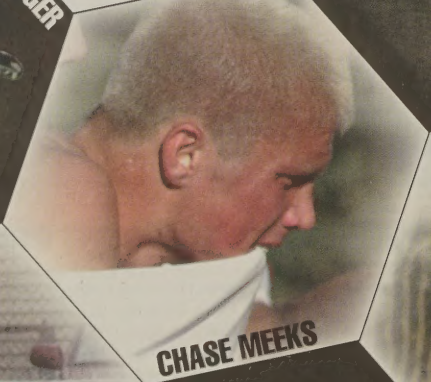
HANNAH BLEVINS

ADAM HAKEY

PHIL HERSHBERGER

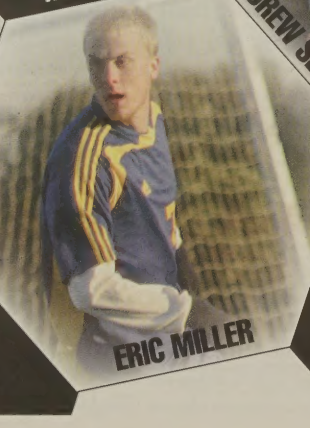
MANDY EID

DREW SEELY



CHASE MEEKS

LINDSEY JULIUS



ERIC MILLER

Ice Queens

Homestead students compete in ice skating regional competition with hopes of receiving national recognition

Lilly Pixley (11)

Neil Shah
Writer

Ice skating, although not the most popular sport at this school, definitely has a presence. Three students Adrienne Ahee (12), Stephanie Hansen (12), and Lilly Pixley (11) are particularly serious about figure skating. Just recently, they competed at the regional competition for the United States Figure Skating Association (NSFSA).

High school ice skaters can compete in one of three different levels – novice, junior, and senior. Pixley competed in the novice level, and both Ahee and Hansen competed in the junior level. The level at which a skater competes is determined by a testing process. The skater does a routine for three judges, who decide whether the skater passes and moves on to the next level, or fails and remains in the same level.

In every competition there are two rounds, initial and final, and in each different round the skater performs a different length program, long or short. In the short program, the skater must complete a certain number of required elements in shorter than three minutes. In the long program, however, the skater is free to skate whatever he wants for a longer period of time. In the initial round the skater performs only the long program. If he places well enough in the initial round to make final round (top 5 for junior, top 4 for novice), he skates both their long and short programs.

The skaters in Fort Wayne compete in the Eastern Great Lakes region. The competition that the girls went to two weeks ago in Strongsville, Ohio. October 13-16 was regionals, which is a qualifying competition. In order to compete at mid-sectionals, the next level, a skater has to place in either the top 4 or 5, depending on the level and the event at which they are competing.

At regionals, Ahee placed fourth in the initial round for junior singles free skate and continued to place twelfth overall, while Hansen placed sixth in the initial round for junior singles free skate. Pixley qualified for mid-sectionals in both her events, novice pairs and novice singles, by placing first in pairs and fourth in singles.

"Almost no one out of Fort Wayne makes it to mid-sectionals," Ahee said. "It was a big deal that Lilly made it."

All three skate year round and train for competitions at the McMillan Ice Arena. This competition, however, is the biggest that they ever compete in.

"[Regionals] is the biggest competition we do because you can qualify for nationals," Ahee said.

More than just competing and placing, regionals was fun and memorable. As seniors, it was the last in which Ahee and Hansen would participate during high school.

"It was a fun experience for us to go and skate for our final time," Ahee said.

All three thoroughly enjoy skating and have been doing so since a young age.

"I have been skating for twelve years," Pixley said. "I really like it."

"I've been skating since I was two," Ahee said.

Hansen and Ahee also plan to continue skating in the future.

"I'm looking forward to skating in college on a team," Ahee said.

On top of skating, Hansen coaches children in skating. She hopes to advance by taking the senior freestyle test this January.

Stephanie Hansen (12)

a column by Christy Landrigan **the lost art**

A brief herstory: language prompted by the F word

Feminism's position in the English language has floundered, flourished

Christy Landrigan
Surplus Editor

Accusations that the effects of feminism are less obvious than thirty years ago may be partially refuted when one looks in depth at the role of women and equality between the sexes in modern language.

Political correctness run amuck or not, feminists urging for a gender-free language have not seen the results spread far in the years since the women's liberation movement. Words like "herstory" replaced "history" in many feminist vocabularies, but efforts to adopt this new language were viewed as radical or unnecessary changes and therefore not taken very seriously. Though many efforts to change the words we speak and write have failed, some issues linger still. For example, in the October 8 issue of the *Spartana*, an editorial board member wrote a criticism of an online grading system's prompt. The prompt made a statement similar to the following: A student struggling with this topic should consult their teacher. The assertion was made in the editorial that this statement is grammatically incorrect and should be written this way instead: A student struggling with this topic should consult his or her teacher. This assertion, however, is debatable because of attempts to asexualize the English language. Modern grammar experts would make the argument that the original statement is the proper structure because it avoids classifying the student as either a male or female. Conservative grammarians would say that the second version is correct.

Usage is only one of the issues dealt with in modern language debates. Titles also present another topic of dissension. The ambiguous title given to gentlemen over the age of 10 is not indicative of age or marital status, unlike feminine titles. Mister Nickel could be a fourth grade married man for all that his title divulges. On the other hand, Miss Oberlin indicates that she is a single lady while Mrs. O'Connell is a married one. Some women feel that this distinction is unnecessary due to their expectation that they be treated with the same amount of respect regardless of their marital status. Ms. is typically used in situations where women wish to keep their marital status out of the context of their relationship. The title is often viewed as more professional, though it was once reserved only for widowed or divorced women.

A further argument from a feminist perspective accuses the social tradition of women taking on their husbands' last names at marriage of being sexist.

"I think it's very 1950s," Jenn Stanley (12) said. "People always think that I'm a feminist, but I think that it's important that men understand that it's part of our identity."

Language is meant to be a flexible means of communication that can be altered to best reflect the meaning of the conveyor, and feminists of the past as well as those of today argue that language needs to be changed for equality.

Christy Landrigan is a senior and works as a writer for the Spartana. *The views and opinions expressed in this editorial do not necessarily represent those of* the Spartana *or its staff.*

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What is it all about?

Alfie set in 1960's proves classic for another society, era

Evan Childers
Writer

Hollywood is purely about money. And the easiest way to make money in the film industry is to use an already proven formula and beat it to death until it has lost all semblance of artistry or originality. But when the industry isn't beating ideas to death, it is busy remaking classic movies, which is far more contemptible. There are certain films, such as "Citizen Cane," "Vertigo," and "Doctor Zhivago" that should not be touched. But in a few cases, a very few, it is acceptable to remake an old film that no longer touches audiences in the same way. "Alfie," the classic from 1966, is one of a few movies that deserves to be remade.

"Alfie" is the tale of one womanizing man and the lessons he learns. We follow Alfie (played by Michael Caine) through his life as he cheats on his various girlfriends, as he steals women from his friends, and as he thinks about trying to get women. He isn't trying to hurt anyone, he says, but somehow that isn't enough. In the end, despite his carefree attitude towards life, he is forced to care.

Then why remake "Alfie," if it is a classic? Well, there is a very good reason. In the world of film, there are two kinds of classics. One is the timeless classic, while the other is great only in respect to its accomplishments during its time. One speaks to all audiences- the other is only recognizable by audiences of the era. "Alfie" is indeed a classic, but not because of timelessness. It shocked and provoked 1960's movie goers in a way that set it apart from other films of the sixties. "Alfie" dealt blatantly with abortion in a time when few films touched the issue. The subject matter, coupled with "Alfie's" derogatory attitude towards women, sets the movie apart from other films of the era. But there is a fundamental problem with films that use shock-tactics to grab an audience's attention. As time progresses, a "shocking" film inevitably becomes less and less outrageous due to the evolution of ideas and culture. As years pass, it fails to touch the emotions of audiences- much like it failed to touch me.

This is where remakes come in. "Alfie" is still a wonderful film in many respects. Alfie himself is a likeable character, despite his many flaws. Alfie's offhand comments about women and life are amusing, while Alfie's multiple relationships with multiple women create a workable story. So, using this formula, director Charles Shyer is hoping to recapture the magic that the original "Alfie" created in 1966. And while Jude Law, who will be starring as Alfie in the remake, may not be able to recreate Michael Caine's character, the film will hopefully be worth his efforts.

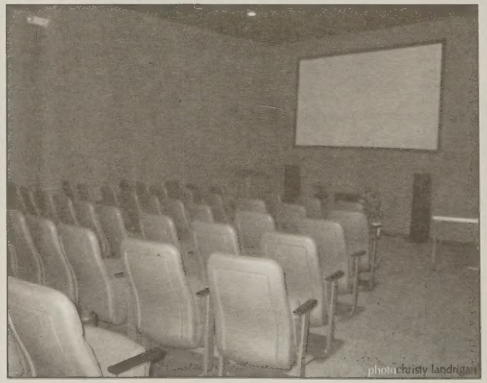
"Alfie" is a great story, but it is a great story for a different time. "Alfie" is a film that I can not readily recommend to my contemporaries, because not one of us would see it in the lights of 1966. But, if you are a fan of dramatic comedies, then see the remake. With the original "Alfie" as a basis, hopefully the new film won't go far astray.

Reel Facts
Michael Caine

1. What master horror film director did Caine turn down when asked to play a psychotic rapist-murderer?
2. Caine performed as Horatio in what Shakespearean play?
3. Now a pop culture icon, Caine played the father of this British spy from 2002.
4. Though not involved in the remake of Alfie to be released on November 5, Caine will be acting in another film this coming year inspired by an enchanting old TV show. Which one?

Answers below.

1. Alfred Hitchcock asked him to play the part of a man who strangled women with neckties in "Frenzy" (1972). 2. Hamlet. 3. He played Austin Powers's father, Nigel Powers in 2002. 4. Bewitched.


photo/christy landrigan

Studio M offers intimate viewing

New theater dedicated to older, classic movies

Christy Landrigan
Surplus Editor

Mitchell Books's Studio M movie theater features a small viewing experience unlike any other in town. Most of the movies it shows are free, and most of them are classics no longer available at theaters or rental stores in Fort Wayne or surrounding areas.

In collaboration with *the Spartana* and *Surplus*, the theater featured a free showing of our movie review of Citizen Kane for two weeks in October, and they will continue to show our movies the first Tuesday after publication. Alfie will run on November 2 at 7 p.m. The schedule is chosen largely based on the manager's personal preferences and knowledge.

"A lot of people love Hitchcock, but they don't realize how much cooler it is on the big screen," said manager Heather Berkshire. "I choose movies partially on what I think are really good movies and what I see other people like. Recently, we got Eternal Sunshine [of the Spotless Mind] and a lot of people came out for that."

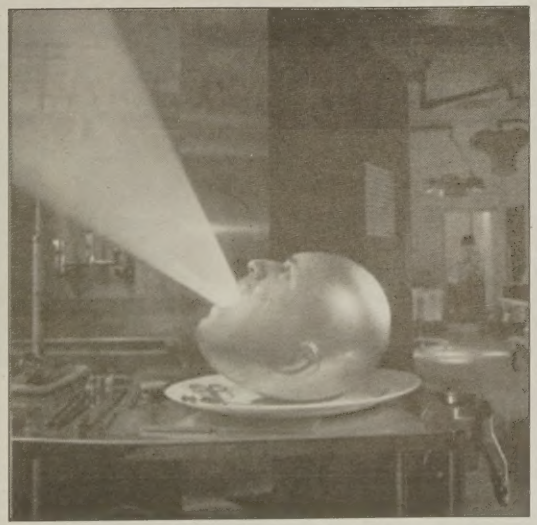
For November, Shawshank Redemption, the cult classic Harold and Maud, Rear Window, and Panes, Trains and Automobiles. During the week, movie showings are free, while on Fridays and Saturdays they charge a nominal fee of $2. Saturday and Sunday also feature a family matinee during early afternoon.

Unlike any other theater in town, Studio M strives to make a connection between the viewer and the film through its small size while providing the big screen for classic movies.

Band of the Issue: The Mars Volta

Tyler Churchward
Intern Writer

Mack O' Shaughnessy
Intern Writer



The Mars Volta album cover, *De-Loused in the Comatorium,* is pictured here. The album was released June 24, 2004.

Tyler: Take two members from emo-punk-postrock goliath At The Drive-In, three more members from Sparta, and a passion for music. The result is The Mars Volta.

Mack: Aided by John Frusciante and Flea from the Red Hot Chili Peppers, The Mars Volta takes a trip into the mind of a band member, Jeremy Michael Ward, who died a week after slipping into a coma caused by a drug overdose.

The Mars Volta incorporates insane guitar sounds, incredible vocals, and ambient noises made by synthesizers to produce one extremely unique sound.

Indeed.

Unique doesn't quite begin to describe the Mars Volta's sound. Each track on the album sounds entirely different, which is a real treat for the listener.

Mimicking the sounds of Rush and Pink Floyd, Comatorium gives the listener a '70s progressive rock look into a troubled mind. The Mars Volta combines multiple influences including indie rock, jazz, psychedelia, and progressive rock.

Hold your horses, Mack. We haven't told them what indie-rock is. Microsoft's Encarta Dictionary defines indie-rock as: "Rock released by independent record companies: rock music of the 1990s composed or performed by artists and groups who achieved some success but did not sign with a major record company." There is no set criteria for indie-rock, despite Encarta's definition. Indie-rock is not, however, incredibly successful (like mainstream bands such as Incubus and Yellowcard).

Yeah... What he said. Meaningful, emotional lyrics are also a part of The Volta's style, but it's pretty hard to comprehend just what they really mean without slipping into the void the psyched out album creates. For those looking for something just a little different, okay, maybe a lot different, De-Loused in the Comatorium has it. The band's originality makes it stand out from other current artists.

De-Loused in the Comatorium's first track is "Son et Lumiere", a semi-creepy song full of ambient noise. It's nothing spectacular, but it does intrigue the listener. "Intertiatic E.S.P.", the second track on the album, is amazing. It combines astonishing percussion with the incredible vocals of Cedric Bixler and the stunning guitar playing of Omar Rodriguez to make an adrenaline-pumping, in-your-face song. "Eriatarka", track six, is my favorite song on the album. The guitar and vocals surpass even those of "Inertiatic E.S.P.". The lyrics on "Eriatarka" are different, but interesting. Bixler sings of a "track marked amoeba landing craft" and "dressing the tapeworm as pets." Keep in mind, this is what's being seen in a morphine-induced coma.

"Cicatriz E.S.P.", the album's epic twelve-minute song leaves the listener feeling up, down, and points in between. The rest of the songs on the album follow that formula, but each song is different and unique from the last.

The Mars Volta is not for everyone. But, even if you aren't into indie-rock or any rock at all, it's definitely worth giving a shot. I have seen people who exclusively like rap enjoy listening to The Mars Volta. Go check them out; what do you have to lose?

the charts

as of 10.15.2004

1	Rascal Flatts	*Feels Like Today*
2	Hilary Duff	*Hilary Duff*
3	Ciara	*Goodies*
4	Green Day	*American Idiot*
5	Nelly	*Suit*
6	The Used	*In Love And Death*
7	Ray Charles	*Genius Loves Company*
8	Nelly	*Sweat*
9	Marilyn Manson	*Lest We Forget: The Best Of*
10	Tim McGraw	*Live Like You Were Dying*
11	Joss Stone	*Mind Body & Soul*
12	Various Artists	*Now 16*
13	Brian Wilson	*Smile*
14	Talib Kweli	*The Beautiful Struggle*
15	Interpol	*Antics*
16	Queen Latifah	*The Dana Owens Album*
17	Keith Urban	Be Here
18	Maroon5	*Songs About Jane*
19	Ashlee Simpson	*Autobiography*
20	Guerilla Black	*Guerilla City*

Firehouse Stew gets a little Sour

Haphazard group of seniors face off in battle of athleticism with varsity girls soccer team, leaving bitter taste in mouths of losers

Evan Childers
Writer

photo/jack rozman

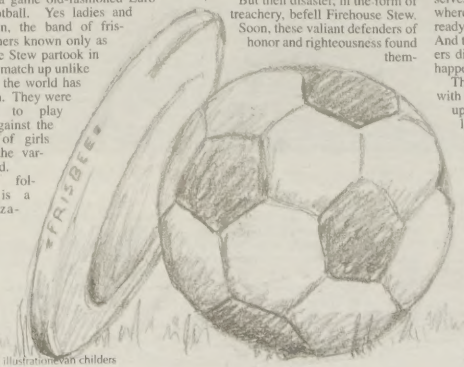
In the world of sports, it is sometimes not the talent or abilities of teams that drive teams to greatness, but the intensity of their rivalries. Even if it is only for a single game, a team might defy the limits of physical ability in order to beat a rival. Rivalries can begin in many ways, some after years of competition. Others can begin for no reason at all. Some of the most famous rivalries in sports have long and storied traditions, rivalries such as the Boston Red Sox and the New York Yankees, The Michigan Wolverines and the Ohio State Buckeyes, and the Indiana Hoosiers and the Purdue Boilermakers. Rivalries instill a great love of sport in fans, and continue to make sports interesting.

In September, a now infamous rivalry was created in the world of sports. It was to become a rivalry like none-other. It was on that day that a band of frisbee players played the girls varsity soccer team in a game old-fashioned European football. Yes ladies and gentlemen, the band of frisbee brothers known only as Firehouse Stew partook in a unique match up unlike anything the world has ever seen. They were destined to play soccer against the masters of girls soccer: the varsity squad.

(The following is a dramatization.)

The atmosphere was grim Stew, united as one, field. Tension was so thick you could cut it with a knife. But there were no knives here, only grim determination, and the will to win. The girls team played like demons, possessed demons that were born in the fires of soccer hell with the eternal purpose of winning soccer games. But Firehouse Stew also played with the resolve and focus they all had gained on the frisbee field. They were not going to be easily beaten. It was good-old fashioned eleven on eleven, and soon, the score was tied at 1-1.

But then disaster, in the form of treachery, befell Firehouse Stew. Soon, these valiant defenders of honor and righteousness found themselves outnumbered on the field. Everywhere they turned, a Lady Spartan was ready to kick them right in the shins. And tragically many of the Frisbee players did not have shin guards. What had happened?



illustration/evan childers

The girls team had flooded the field with all of their reserve players. Dozens upon dozens of girls were circling like vultures, picking apart Firehouse Stew's hapless defenders.

Coach Pat Teagarden, the mastermind of this maneuver, laughed maniacally on the sidelines. Nothing could be done in the face of such blatant disregard for the rules. Firehouse Stew fell before the onslaught.

Fortunately for the Frisbee players, they were officially awarded the victory (by default) in the announcements the following day, due to the infringement upon the rules. But this would not quell their thirst for soccer, and the Lady Spartans contested this ruling viciously. A rivalry of monumental proportions was born. Cold stares and heated arguments about the game were seen for weeks afterwards.

(This dramatization has been oficially ended)

Seriously though, the game between the two teams was a lot of fun. Little random challenges like that add far more excitement to an otherwise normal week. The girls played a good game, and are simply a talented bunch. They aren't anything like demons, actually. Whether or not the soccer games between the two teams will be continued is anyone's guess. But Firehouse Stew isn't finished either way. If anyone wants to take on Firehouse Stew in a game of Frisbee, or a game of anything else, bring it on. They'll be out by the Firehouse ready and waiting for the challenge.

Evan Childers is a senior and works as a writer for the Spartana. *The views and opinions expressed in this editorial do not necessarily represent those of* the Spartana *or its staff.*

Providing hearth and soul for community

Mitchell Books diversifies bookstore image through design, themed areas

Katie Corson
Writer

photochristy landrigan

» Mitchell Books is marked by relaxing homey areas and features like the double-sided fireplace.

Mitchell Books, which recently opened in the Covington Plaza, provides more than the name suggests.

Owned by Peter and Angie Mitchell, Mitchell Books includes a movie screening room, a bistro, a reading room, an elaborate music and movie section, and a "Sherwood Forest" kid's section. There are books too--lots of books.

"Peter describes the store as a gathering place for diversity of entertainment," bookseller Joyce Gray, said. "It is more a community center than just a book store."

Unlike the typical four walls containing only rows of tall bookshelves, Mitchell Books is a little different. A significant deal of construction had to be done before the first box of books arrived.

"Walls were taken out; floors had to be redone," Gray said. "The screening room is all new construction."

The screening room can be used for a diversity of activities and is what Gray feels will most attract high school students.

For starters, all the movies are free which is always a bonus for students on a budget. However, the area is more than just a little room with a television in it. There is a snack bar that provides both the typical movie theater candy as well as coffee.

A unique aspect of the screening room is that the seats are not bolted to the floor as in movie theaters, allowing the room to be used for endless purposes.

"We held a wedding shower in the theater once," Gray said. "We showed *My Big Fat Greek Wedding* and they all ate a lot of Greek food."

This does not mean that Mitchell Books is showing movies such as *Without A Paddle* or *Collateral* for free, though. Most of the movies are older, low budget, or foreign, but they are interested in the community's input.

"If there is interest in having a particular movie brought in, we want to know," Gray said. "Not only from students though. If teachers are interested in finding a way to show a particular film to their class, we would like to offer whatever help we can."

With stores such as Barnes and Noble and Borders attempting to dominate the book world, the Mitchells' idea for Mitchell Books is distinctive.

"Books can work as a theme that brings people together," Gray said. "You can walk around a book store or find a place to just sit and relax and read. It's more of a place to hang out."

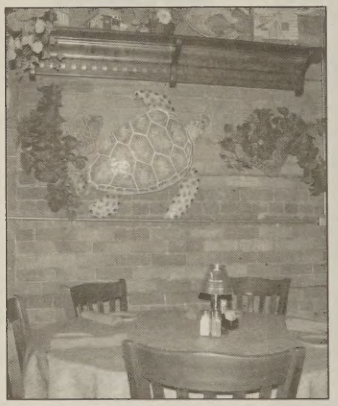
With a wide selection, it is not hard to find something to interest anyone. Mitchell Books offers a myriad of topics for any person's particular interests, including anything from travel to sports, to books on present political matters.

Today, it seems like Americans require more from a book store than just books; there should be coffee and food also. Mitchell Books understands that, and has developed a near definite way to satisfy. Connected to the store is a full bistro where book-browsers can find a sandwich, a scoop of ice cream, and, of course, espresso drinks.

Presently, Covington Plaza is the only location for Mitchell Books. It is possible that some day the Mitchell family may decide to expand the business, but right now they feel content with where they are.

"We're interested in our customers' input," Gray said. "We're eager to be a part of the community."

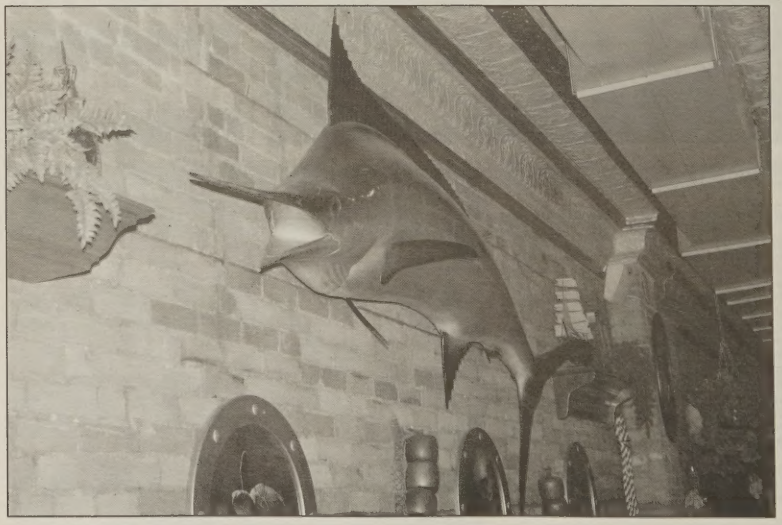
To find out more about Mitchell Books's "Spoons Café" and "Studio M," look for the food and movie reviews in the November 24 issue of Surplus.



«A table in the dining room is pictured. Compared to most restaurants, Chappell's has a small eating area, creating a cozy atmosphere.

photosjack rozman

«Mississippi mud pie, is just one of many desserts offered at Chappell's. Executive Chef Jason Stuart changes the dessert menu constantly, giving diners a new experience every time.



«A gigantic swordfish hangs from a wall in the main dining room. The room is also home to a large fish tank and numerous other fish. Exquisitely decorated, the dining room radiates a Cuban aura for a seafood experience unlike any other in town. Located on Broadway, Chappell's is only a ten to fifteen minute drive from school. The menu is rather pricey (entrees range from $21-$30), but semiformal, which is quickly approaching, presents the perfect opportunity.

Fresh fish

Chappell's Coral Grille offers tasty seafood, a unique ambience, and a great dining experience

Josh Zurawski
Co-Editor in Chief

Tyler Churchward
Writer

photo/jack rozman

Netting and fish hang from the entrance/seafood market of Chappell's Coral Grille.

Josh: As winter approaches, so does our semiformal. With that in mind, Tyler, Jack, and I journeyed through "scenic" downtown Fort Wayne, and ended up at Chappell's Coral Grille, located on Broadway.

Tyler: We had our reservation set for about quarter after 7 on a Wednesday night, and when we entered the cozy, upscale restaurant, we were pleasantly surprised with the ambience. As soon as we entered, we were cordially greeted and seated immediately. So far, so good.

When we sat down, I wasn't sure if I was in Cuba or still in Fort Wayne. The exotic decorations, including a large fish tank, scuba diving statues, and enormous fish mounted in every nook and cranny.

As soon as I glanced through the menu, I was pleased to see a variety of foods available for all tastes. This excitement was extinguished as soon as I saw the prices for the entrees. The lowest priced entree came in at $21.95.

Just a little bit pricey...

That's the understatement of the century. With a budget of only $40, we ordered three Mountain Dews and two appetizers, seared tuna wasabi and walleye fingers.

> It was a good thing we took a little time before we ordered our dessert, because it took a while for our taste buds to settle down.
>
> Josh Zurawski

Sipping on some Dew, we noticed we were the only ones not sipping on a glass of wine. Almost all other patrons were middle-aged, and were certainly enjoying themselves.

Our waitress brought us some bread, which Josh noticed was strikingly similar to the bread served at the Fort Wayne Country Club.

In fact, it was the same white rolls served at the Club. I worked with Jason there for a year before he left to become the executive chef at Chappell's. Expect Fort Wayne Country Club presentation and taste when eating Chappell's' food.

The food took no more than 15 minutes to get to our table. Pleased with the efficiency of the chef and wait staff, we dug in.

Although we ordered only appetizers, there was more than enough walleye and tuna for an entree. With a side order of vegetables or potatoes to go along with the starter, you'd have yourself a meal.

Splitting the walleye fingers and tuna wasabi up evenly, Josh and I tried the walleye fingers first. I had never tasted such flavorful, flaky fish. After eating a walleye finger or two, I grabbed some tuna wasabi, served raw. I had never had wasabi sauce before, and I made the mistake of putting too much on my tuna.

Yeah, I'm pretty sure you almost cried...

Yeah, yeah, you just remember whose credit card this meal is going on.

K-U-H-N - well sort of. I guess you did supply the plastic for the time being. But that's besides the point. After dipping the tuna in a little bit of wasabi and a lot of soy sauce, I couldn't have been happier. The two flavorings complimented each other to perfection.

Not for the faint of heart, though. A little wasabi goes a long way, but I found that out the hard way.

It was a good thing we took a little time before we ordered our dessert, because it took a while for our taste buds to settle down.

Our ugly photographer ordered a slice of Mississippi Mud Pie.

Ugly and worthless.

The one bite I had was pretty impressive.

Not only was the dessert delicious, but it changes every evening. Executive Chef Jason Stuart keeps three or four desserts on the menu at a time, but rotates new ones in constantly, guaranteeing a variety for his guests.

It really is too bad the menu is so pricey, otherwise I would make many a trip out to Broadway.

Fortunately, semiformal is quickly approaching, providing the perfect opportunity to explore Chappell's.

Don't forget to call ahead for reservations; the dining room has only four tables available to underage diners.

Not a bad dining experience. Great food, great service, great time.

Don't let the location turn you away either. It's only a ten to fifteen minute drive from school.

It walks down stairs, alone, or in pairs. the Slinky

Tyler Keena
Writer

"What walks down stairs, alone or in pairs, and makes a slinkity sound?"

Almost all Americans know the answer to this question, which was asked in an advertisement campaign for one of the most famous toys in history.

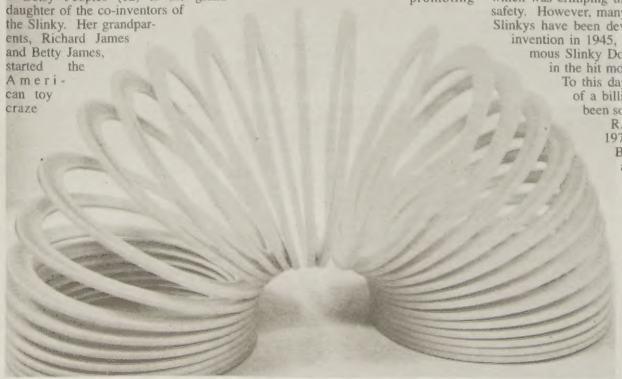
"A spring, a spring, a marvelous thing, everyone knows it's Slinky!"

But one thing that everyone does not know is the history of the slinky, and the connection between the inventors and a current student of the class of 2005.

Betsy Peoples (12) is the granddaughter of the co-inventors of the Slinky. Her grandparents, Richard James and Betty James, started the American toy craze over the slinky by accident about 60 years ago.

R. James, who was a naval engineer, was conducting an experiment with tension springs aboard a ship, and one of the springs dropped to the floor and James took note of the walking motion of the falling spring. When R. James returned home, he presented his discovery to his wife, B. James, who began to pursue her vision of this spring as a possible toy. She came up with the name "Slinky," meaning sleek and stealthy, and set about promoting the toy.

> What walks down stairs, alone or in pairs, and makes a slinkity sound? A spring, a spring, a marvelous thing, everyone knows it's Slinky!



In 1946, the two demonstrated the toy at Gimbel's Department Store in Philadelphia. The toys did not take much time to gain popularity, as 400 of the one dollar toys had been sold 90 minutes afterwards.

Over the years, only one major change has been made to the original Slinky, which was crimping the sharp ends for safety. However, many new models of Slinkys have been developed since its invention in 1945, including the famous Slinky Dog, which starred in the hit movie "Toy Story".

To this day, over a quarter of a billion Slinkys have been sold.

R. James died in 1974 but his wife B. James is still alive. She sold the company to Poof Toys in 1998, after serving as CEO and running James Industries for over 50 years.

R. James, who provided the spark for the invention of the Slinky from his experiences with springs as an engineer, often receives the bulk of the credit for the invention of the Slinky. However, according to his granddaughter, most of the credit for the toy should go to his wife.

"It was his idea, but she did everything with the company," Peoples said. "She single-handedly ran the company for about 50 years. She was so dedicated to her job."

B. James was inducted into the Toy Manufacturers' Association's Hall of Fame in 2001. She was very honored by this induction.

The Slinky is and always will be a household name in America. It has made a big impact on American toys.

photo courtesy/betsu peoples

Betsy People's (12) grandma Betty James is pictured here. She is the co-inventor of the Slinky, along with her husband, Richard James. R. James sadly passed away in 1974, but Betty James is still alive. B. James was inducted into the Toy Manufacturers' Association's Hall of Fame in 2001. To this day, over a quarter of a billon Slinkys have been sold.

at the conservatory

Creature Feature
date: Friday, October 22
time: 4 to 8 pm

Holiday Party
date: Wednesday, November 24
time: 5 to 9 pm

Reindeer Fest
date: November 24 to December 26

Gardens of the Old South
date: January 10 to February 29

A Child's Garden
date: March 6 to April 11

Butterflies ... Poetry in Flight
date: April 17 to June 27

Check out the Botanical Conservatory's website, www.botanicalconservatory.org.

waterfallsinglass

James Michael Kahle designed the current exhibit on display at the Botanical Conservatory. The exhibit uses glass and water to "evoke an emotional response."

photo:rod kuhn

Christy Landrigan
Surplus Editor

As the weather turns harsh, so do attitudes about life as a teenager looking for entertainment in Fort Wayne. Winter days bring the monochromatic doldrums of black, white and gray, freezing winds, ice and snow. Typically, anticipation of events is reserved for school delays and cancellations in the city sarcastically known to its younger residents as Fort Fun. No more will this be the case if students seek out the variety of opportunities and awe-inspiring exhibits that the Foellinger-Freimann Botanical Conservatory at 1100 South Calhoun Street has to offer for a mere $2.00 entrance fee.

Traditionally, the Botanical Conservatory is reserved for pre-dinner formal dance photo sessions without a thought to its actual function of providing aesthetically pleasing displays of foliage paired with the scent of the flowers as well as educational displays. The Conservatory goes beyond even this role by offering classes in Tai Chi, a "low-impact exercise [that] gently relaxes mind and body, tones muscles, and improves balance;" a Williamsburg Tea Day, where visitors will "sample tea and Colonial-era goodies while…learn[ing] about plants and customs of American colonists in the 1700s" for an additional fee; and other creative learning events; children's programs, and special events like the Creature Feature on October 22 that featured live Bengal tigers, an African leopard, a baby cougar, macaws, a Patagonian cavy, and more.

True to its purpose of providing community enrichment, the main focus of the Conservatory is still the displays and gardens that vie for attention, especially its current abstract feature that the Conservatory website calls "a spectacular display of art glass fountains." Designed by James Michael Kahle, the Kaleidoscope display features an enormous grouping of vibrantly colored tulip-shaped glass bowls, arranged in artistic formations to create gigantic fountains. Though they appear in photos to be reminiscent in size and design of Willy Wonka's edible garden, they instead dwarf the visitor by comparison.

> "I strive to evoke an emotional response. Glass, when it is being worked, has a personality. It is active, alive and ever-changing."
> -James Michael Kahle

Artist Kahle has works in collections in the United States, Mexico, Hungary, Germany, Canada, Great Britain, Japan, and the Netherlands, and pieces of his work are present in the permanent collection of the White House. Yet, Kahle works from his studios in Winona, Indiana and Rockford, Ohio with an artist in residence and four apprentices, two of whom are from Fort Wayne. The collection was primarily designed by Kahle and his artist in residence Duane Darland, but each of the four apprentices had the opportunity to work on the display as well. To complete the Kaleidoscope display, Kahle and assistants began in December 2003, working through March 2004. Then, the structural supports had to be designed and created, a process that took until June to complete. The display was tested in June, opened for exhibit in July, and was to be removed before the end of October. Because of its popularity among the community, though, the display is being kept for two weeks into November until the fourteenth.

"I strive to evoke an emotional response," Kahle says on the Conservatory website. "Glass, when it is being worked, has a personality. It is active, alive and ever-changing."

This active personality remains present in Kaleidoscope, allowing the glass to memorize bystanders not only because of the rainbows of color reflected in every direction by the colors of glass, but also by the bubbles that Kahle intentionally leaves in it to create additional mirroring points. Another mirroring point is present in the water as it flows from vessel to vessel. Perhaps the most effective way to view the fountains is on Thursday nights when the Conservatory is open until 9:00 p.m. and the fountains are lit against the darkness. The contrast of the brightened colors with the darker atmosphere is nothing short of hypnotic, like the stars twinkling on a clear night. The rush of the air, the smell of the flowers, the dull roar and tinkle of the fountains, the abundant vegetation, and the myriad color and lights all enhance the relaxing atmosphere of the garden, making it a haven from the biting cold that announces the quick coming of autumn and transition into winter. A visit to the Kaleidoscope exhibit is a sane venture into the land of Willy Wonka, and the visitor is Charlie, there to awe at the wonder at the virtual impossibility of his surroundings.

The waterfall display created by James Michael Kahle at the Botanical Conservatory is an aptly named fantastic exibit that engulfs the viewer in the center of a motley world of aesthetic vibrance to reflect precisely the artist's intent: a kleidoscope.

photo:dan baden

Photos of the 'Waterfalls in Glass' exhibit are seen here. Along with the exhibit, there are many other things to do. The Botanical Conservatory is always full of new and interesting things to check out.

the Spartana

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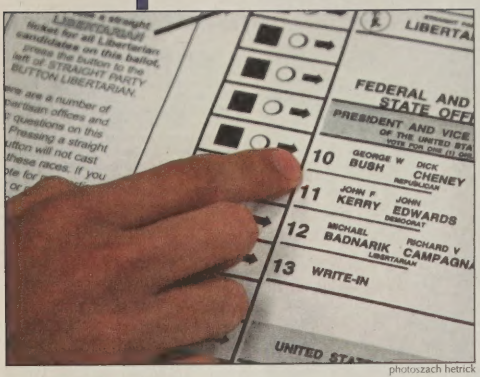
Athletic Accolades

Fall sports finish seasons with state performances, sectional play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PRESIDENT AND VICE
10 GEORGE W BUSH DICK CHENEY
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photoszach hetrick

November 2, 2004: Presidential Election Day

≪A sample ballot is pictured above. ≫Amber Piercy (12) stands in line to vote. Numerous seniors were eligible to vote in the 2004 election. President George Bush won both the election and Indiana's electoral college votes. **See election coverage on 3A.**

RIBBONS OF RED

Encouraging a drug free life, SADD organizes Red Ribbon Week

Jim Katz
Writer

To encourage a drug-free life, students and staff participated at the school in one of the most successful drug-free programs in the country, through a number of contests and wearing the now famous red ribbons, Red Ribbon Week from October 25th through 29th.

Red Ribbon Week began almost twenty years ago in 1985 in Calexico, California. Enrique Camarena was a law enforcement officer who was undercover with a drug gang and was murdered. A group of 100 students, in honor of Camarena, sent a pledge of abstaining from drugs to their Congresswoman. Between 1985 and 1988 the movement spread throughout the state of California and eventually the whole country.

The school's Red Ribbon week was organized and run by SADD (Students Against Destructive Decisions). SADD is the school's main group devoted to promoting a drug-free life for students and staff. The school has been participating in the Red Ribbon Week program for the past four or five years and during that time has had many different programs to encourage participation in Red Ribbon Week.

> "Decisions about drugs and other hazardous things will have long reaching effects."
> Shawn Harkness

Throughout the week there were many programs that students were able to participate in. Prizes were awarded for several of these programs. If students wore red on Wednesday, they were eligible for a prize. If a student dressed up in a Halloween costume on Friday, they were entered in a judging of costumes and prizes were awarded.

The most exciting prize to be won was given out to a student who wore red every day in honor of Red Ribbon Week. The prize is an invitation to bring 60 friends to a showing of a movie of their choosing at the recently opened Mitchell's Books movie theater.

Students were encouraged to wear the red ribbons throughout the week. Ribbons were put on all cars in the parking lots, and students could get ribbons from teachers, who could pick them up in the teachers' lounge. Shawn Harkness, a social studies teacher and advisor for SADD handed more than 100 ribbons to interested students.

The pledge a student or staff member takes when wearing the red ribbons has changed over the years. It initially was simply to not use illegal drugs, but in recent year the message has expanded to include several other issues. These include use of tobacco, illegal drugs, under age and excessive drinking, impaired driving, and violence.

Red Ribbon Week is always considered successful at the school. Despite all the success in promoting a drug-free life, there is always room for improvement. SADD has a few ideas for future Red Ribbon Weeks.

"I would love to see a national speaker and have a convocation," Harkness said.

There is one message that SADD would like to promote to students and staff during Red Ribbon Week.

"Decisions about drugs and other hazardous things will have long reaching effects," Harkness said.

On Monday, members of SADD tied red ribbons with the slogan "Celebrate a drug-free life" to every car. After school, students walked into a parking lot filled with red ribbons tied on any possible part of the car: the antenna, the windshield wiper, and even the door handle.

"It was the perfect day to tie the ribbons onto the cars, because there was warm weather and sunshine," Whitney Johnson (11), SADD treasurer said.

If the ribbon was left on the car for the rest of the week, the owner of the car was entered into a raffle.

On Wednesday, they held a raffle for red ribbon week. Anyone who wore red was eligible to sign-up for the drawing. Participants had the chance to win one of four prizes.

Ten people were awarded free Rave Motion Pictures passes. Some winners were Jessica Bissell (11), Kelly Geislman (10), Kyler Cox (10), Jenna Salamone (12), Ronnie Link (10), Tarik Rellerin (10), Justin Wight (9), and Anna Menze (11).

Two people won Oley's Pizza gift certificates and they were Larry Hadaway (10) and Brad Zehr (10). Two other people had the chance to win free Blizzards from Dairy Queen. The winners for that prize were Mike Jarmus (11) and Zack Nemeroff (11).

The grand prize was a free movie showing for the winner and sixty-four of his friends at Mitchell Books. The lucky person who won this prize was Amanda Kingsbery (10).

Red Ribbon Week, and the activities it comprised provided the following message to students: life is far too important to waste on destructive decisions involving tobacco, alcohol, violence and other illegal drugs.

photojosh zurawski

≪Hannah Weide (12) signs up for the Red Ribbon Week Raffle.

Student Government creates manual, plans more changes

Principal, advisor collaborate with group of elected officials

Suhasini Bhargava
Co-Editor in Chief

Working with the school principal, the assistant principal for student activities, current advisor, and former advisor, Student Government has launched a program to improve its efficacy and to develop leadership skills among elected officials. Throughout the course of the 2004-05 and 2005-06 school years, members of Student Government will work towards developing a solid management structure to cater to the needs of students, other school organizations, and groups within the community.

Currently operating under the direction of social studies teacher Greg Applegate, Student Government organizes school dances, Homecoming Week, Snowcoming Week, spirit day raffles, recycling activities, Adopt-a-Family, and Pennies for Patients.

In the course of the next two years, the improvement committee of Student Government, which includes executive board president Audri Nicholson (12), junior class representative Anna Menze (11), sophomore class president Larry Buchanan (10), and senior class president Neel Patel (12), will help to create a policy and procedures manual. This manual describes how the backroom (where candy and other goods are sold) operates on a daily basis, how meetings are run during fifth period, and the details of events that are held annually. The manual also purposes in informing members about how basic procedures (such as filling out purchase request forms) are handled by Student Government. Junior class representative Ian McCormick (11) chairs the testing committee, which is responsible for checking the coherence and clarity of all written procedures.

"[The manual will contain] anything that student government does," Patel said. "[Examples include] small things that seniors already know how to do like how to e-mail, how to fax, and also bigger things like how to start a project. It will be easier for underclassmen because they will know what to do when they get involved."

Faculty members on the improvement committee include school building principal Dianne Moake, assistant principal in charge of student activities Jennifer Bay, social studies department chair and former Student Government advisor Tom Maher, and Applegate.

"Mr. Applegate has taken the initiative to work with the administration," Nicholson said. "He has taken what they want and brought it to us."

To incorporate greater academic variety and extra-curricular participation diversity within Student Government representatives, the board

> [We are trying] to make it more efficient and represent all the students instead of just a certain group of people.
> Audri Nicholson (12)

members will take measures to restructure the election process.

"We have talked about reducing the number of class board members and trying to incorporate more representation from the school by including members from Key Club, Marching Band, Speech Team, and other groups" Buchanan said. "However, nothing is set in stone yet."

Although tentative, another change that Student Government might endure is a modification in the titles and responsibilities of the executive officer positions. Currently, five members of Student Government serve on the executive board; these positions include president, vice-president, treasurer, recording secretary, and corresponding secretary. The number and positions for the executive board are subject to change.

The method of electing executive board officers will also be altered. The proposal for changing the election procedures is the following one: candidates may be required to speak in front of the student body at a pep session.

Additionally, amendments will be made to Student Government's constitution to incorporate the proposed changes and to include the method of selection of executive board officers.

Student Government is seeking input on additional improvements that can be made to the organization. The ultimate goal of the change is to allow Student Government members to devote more time to projects and activities in comparison to time spent on structural organization and responsibility delegation.

"[We are trying] to make it more efficient and represent all the students instead of just a certain group of people," Nicholson said.

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Surplus

Catch the Spoons review in the Nov. 24 publication

Fall season offers unique holiday, various activities

Trick-or-treating not the only option this Halloween, school offered alternatives

Austin Hetrick
Writer

The trees on Eggeman road slowly release their leaves to the frosty wind, which rustles them into a whirl of color: Fall has arrived in Indiana. Among the distractions for high school students during this season are Friday-night games of football, plays being readied, and of course: trick-or-treating on Halloween. This tastiest of holidays is usually seen as one of the last landmarks before entering the pre-Christmas shopping blitz.

"I'm not sure if I'm going to trick or treat," Mandi Mast (10) said before Halloween night. "I did when I was younger, but I've lost interest in it since [then]. It would be fun but I think I may just want to go [take my younger siblings] this year."

Mast's feelings are shared by many high school students, who, although may still find a great deal of fun in dressing up as their favorite character and masquerading with friends, also find that the time for trick-or-treating simply to collect candy is long past.

"I won't be going trick-or-treating this year," Hari Vasu (10) said. "The last time I went was in sixth grade, [and] at the last minute I decided on a mad-scientist get-up."

Many students are too busy to spend time planning their Halloween escapades, and are forced to settle with less personal but still enjoyable experiences such as the "Haunted Castle" (which celebrated its 25th year of operation this fall). The "Castle," located on Auburn Road in Fort Wayne featured, for a price, an assortment of spooky characters who pop out at opportune moments to frighten visitors. Students searching for Halloween activities may settle for this option, but with a nine-dollar admission fee, many will find trick-or-treating just as fun for much less of a price. Other spooky places around town included the Haunted Jail, Haunted Cave, and the Corn Maze.

Other activities for students included Key Club's Trick-or-Treat for UNICEF, which raised money for children worldwide. Performance dates for the fall play, "Jack the Ripper, Monster of Whitechapel" are November 11-13 with a possible matinee the on the 14th. The NHS Coffee House will be held in the front commons on November 13 before and after the fall play, tentatively from 7:00 p.m.-11:00 p.m. and featuring Espresso Gallery coffee and music from student bands.

Halloween is often seen as a very commercial holiday; it is the second most commercialized holiday, and Americans spend nearly seven billion dollars on decorations each year. Halloween has much humbler origins than the billions of dollars Americans spend on it today.

Both trick-or-treating and the idea of giving scares to students originated in Celtic holidays and the All-Hallows day of England. Originally the holiday celebrated the dead and their "return" to the world of the living for one night in medieval England and Ireland. In the 1800s, however, Americans began to develop the holiday into an occasion based around "community and neighborly get-togethers, than about ghosts, pranks, and witchcraft. At the turn of the century, Halloween parties for both children and adults became the most common way to celebrate the day," according to the History Channel's holiday website.

Besides trick-or-treating, many Americans traditionally have carved pumpkins. Over the years, pumpkin carving has become more and more a source of pride and also a family event in Indiana and across the country. Today the average consumer can even buy pre-made plastic pumpkins, or stencils to aid in creative carving.

Besides pumpkins, many homes were decorated with strobe lights, spider webs, ghost-like shadows from projectors and numerous other creative products made to entertain visitors and to celebrate the season. Some homes were even decked out with lights and sound effects. All of these features helped to make Halloween what it is. These decorations, with the pumpkin pies and bobbing for apple games help to establish a uniquely American holiday.

Pumpkins and costumes, candy and scares; Halloween in Fort Wayne and elsewhere remains at heart, an American holiday. With the wide variety of activities available to students and school visitors this season, few will need more entertainment. Whether tick-or-treating or simply visiting with friends at a haunt, all students can enjoy the spirit of this holiday.

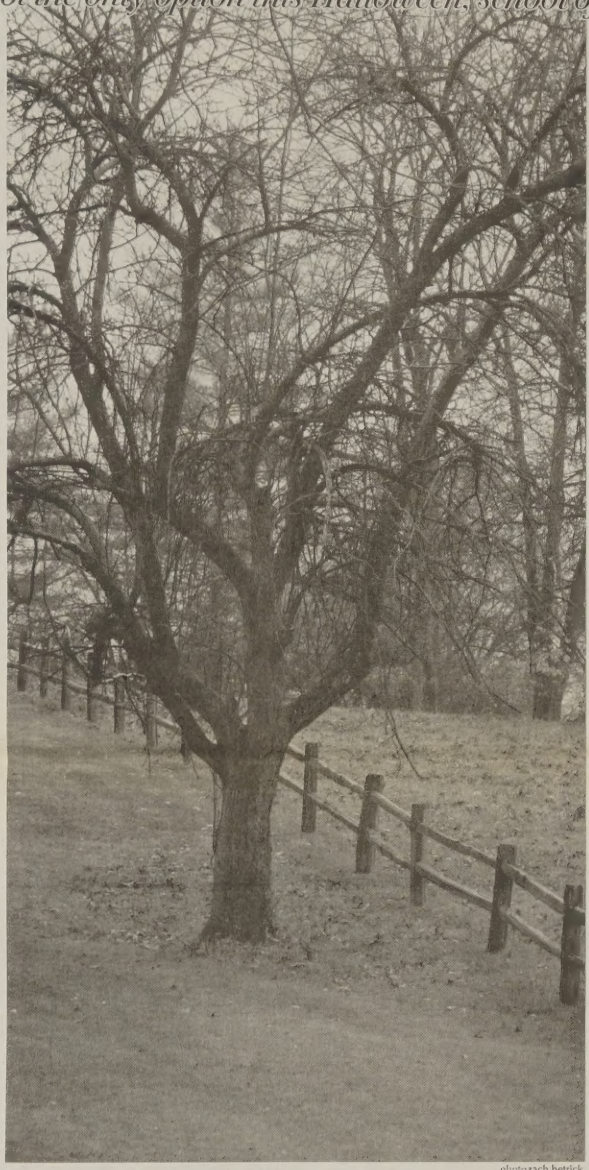

photo:zach hetrick

» Fall scenes like the one above are common in Indiana during November. Along with Halloween, the school offers many fall activities to compliment the festivities that take place this time of year.

PUMPKINS: QUICK FACTS

Pumpkins are fruits. A pumpkin is a type of squash and is a member of the gourd family (Cucurbitacae), which also includes squash, cucumbers, gherkins, and melons.

Pumpkins have been grown in North America for five thousand years. They are indigenous to the western hemisphere.

In 1584, after French explorer Jacques Cartier explored the St. Lawrence region of North America, he reported finding "gros melons." The name was translated into English as "pompions," which has since evolved into the modern "pumpkin."

Pumpkins are low in calories, fat, and sodium and high in fiber. They are good sources of Vitamin A, Vitamin B, potassium, protein, and iron.

The largest pumpkin ever grown was 1,337 pounds. It was grown by Charles Houghton of New Boston, New Hampshire.

Pumpkin seeds should be planted between the last week of May and the middle of June. They take between 90 and 120 days to grow and are picked in October when they are bright orange in color. Their seeds can be saved to grow new pumpkins the next year.

The largest pumpkin pie ever baked was in 2003 and weighed 418 pounds.

In modern day, pumpkins are used in baking pies and cookies. Pumpkin seeds are also edible.

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Sunday 10 a.m.-5p.m.
(expires 12-31-04)

Parents meet teachers at fall conferences

Laura Summers
Writer

This year the parent-teacher conferences took place on November 4 after students were dismissed at 10:30 a.m.

"Teachers could have anywhere from ten to thirty conferences that day," World History teacher Susan Summers said.

During these conferences, teachers and parents discussed a student's progress in that class. "Parent-teacher conferences can be very beneficial for the both the parent and student, because it gives both of them an idea of how the student is doing in class," Summers said.

Although students had both Thursday and Friday as half-days, there were no conferences held on Friday.

Discipline secretary, Laura Blum, was responsible for scheduling all the conferences in the entire school. Parents had to fill out a request for if they wished to meet with teachers. Teachers received their lists of parents coming in about a week and a half before the conferences took place.

In the past, Key Club has put on a bake sale at the conferences to provide refreshments for the parents and teachers. This gesture is greatly appreciated and is beneficial to the members of Key Club, because they get extra service hours.

Fall parent-teacher conferences are effective in broadening a student's understanding of what is expected of them while in high school. Parents and teachers are able to collaborate to improve their students' education.

Global Briefs

Hurricane Ivan

The third of recent hurricanes to develop in the Caribbean, Hurricane Ivan slammed into the Caiman Islands and Cuba. It is looking to make way towards the United States coastline, near Louisiana.

TMS Madrid

Marat Safin is the winner of the Tennis Masters Madrid. He defeated David Nalbandian in a closely contested match. The Tennis Masters events are events in which only the top male players are selected, and the event counts for double points in the ATP series. The last Masters event will be held in Houston, Texas.

Baseball

The Boston Red Sox claimed their first World Series since 1918, sweeping the St. Louis Cardinals 4-0. Following the victory, Manny Ramirez won the World Series MVP. Playing the New York Yankees in the Championship Series, they were the first team in MLB history to comeback from a 3-0 series deficit. St. Louis reached the World Series with a 4-3 series win against the Houston Astros, after falling behind 3-2. With the World Series win, the Red Sox finally ended their "curse."

British Poll

A recent British poll revealed that, when asked which U.S. TV character they would want to be president of the United States, they chose Homer Simpson. Other top contenders included Josiah Bartlet, the actor who plays the president on "The West Wing" and Dr. Frasier Crane of "Frasier."

Spam Lawsuit

In Virginia, three people are being sued for sending millions of spam e-mails to America Online users. The recently passed anti-spam law in Virginia is the most stringent in the nation and could put three violators in jail for up to 15 years

Yasser Arafat

Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat, who is 75 years old, was recently moved to Paris, France to receive treatment for blood platelet deficiency. There have been rumors that Arafat may have leukemia, but doctors deny such claims. This is the first time in over two years he has left his compound in Ramallah

Lunar Eclipse

On Wednesday October 27, the first full lunar eclipse occurred. This happens when the earth is directly between the sun and the moon. The eclipse was of particular interest because it was a "blood moon," due to its deep orange red color.

Starbucks

Worldwide coffee company Starbucks has its sights set on India. With over 8,000 cafes worldwide, Starbucks is looking to convert the tea drinking nations of the world to coffee. They currently have over 100 cafes in China, one of the worlds largest tea consumers. India produces and consumes the most tea of any nations. Starbucks plans to open around 100 cafes in India over the next couple of years.

Moussaoui Trial

After more than 3 years since the attacks on September 11th 2001, Zacarias Moussaoui finally has a trial date. Moussaoui has admitted to being part of al Qaeda and has allegiance to Osama bin Laden. Despite this, Moussaoui claims he had no part in planning or carrying out the attacks on the United States. He is set to go to trial in six months, and could face the death penalty.

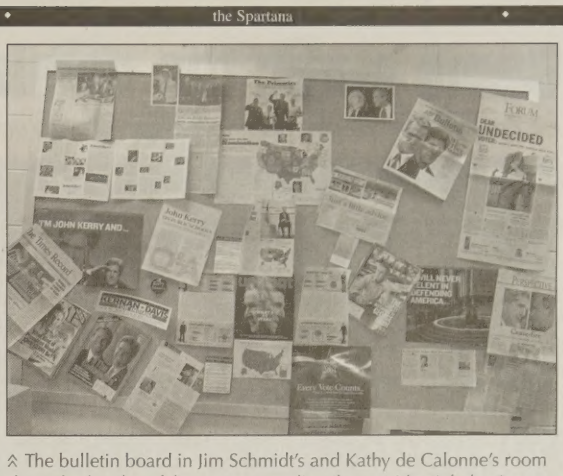
Thailand Riot

In southern Thailand, 78 people crushed and suffocated to death in the aftermath of a riot over the arrest of a group of Muslims who were charged with providing Islamic separatist with weapons.

"The Simple Life"

Filming for a third installment of the series "The Simple Life," has recently begun. It is scheduled to air early 2005 on channel Fox. The reality show stars Paris Hilton and Nicole Richie. These wealthy girls lived with a farmer and his family for the first season, while in the second season they set out across the country and met different people along their journey.

Briefs Jim Katz



⁂ The bulletin board in Jim Schmidt's and Kathy de Calonne's room shows both sides of the issues regarding the presidential election.

Presidential election

Candidates from both parties promised different solutions to problems; Bush wins after receiving 20 votes from Ohio

Puja Parikh
Associate News Editor

From social policies to national security, George Bush and John Kerry offered very different positions on policies that they believed would be the most beneficial to this nation. The candidates took up their positions on the issues by deciding how they wanted a policy to affect the US as a whole, as well as affect the world.

Perhaps one of the dominant issues on the minds of many voters was the issue of Iraq. Both candidates were committed to a stable and democratic Iraq, but had different opinions on how to accomplish the job. Bush said that US forces will remain in Iraq until the country is stabilized, and he has no timetable for withdrawing the troops. Kerry intends to withdraw all US troops within four years. He will go about accomplishing this by bringing in more allies to fund and contribute to the war.

Next up on the minds of voters was the issue of jobs. Key states in the mid west like Ohio, Pennsylvania, Michigan, and Wisconsin, played a major role in the election, because these states were hit hard with the loss of manufacturing jobs. So, voters were concerned about the economy.

Taxes also played a big role in the economy factor. George Bush favors making the income and estate tax cuts of 2001 permanent. However, he has not specified how he will pay for these measures. John Kerry on the other hand would raise income taxes on families making over 200,000 but retain income tax cuts for others. The explanation offered for the payment of this plan was from the money gained by taxing the upper bracket of Americans, as well as closing corporate loopholes.

To combat outsourcing, a major concern among voters throughout the nation, Kerry said that he would try to create a "level playing field," by proposing tax cuts to the business that create jobs in the US. However, voters must remember that although the President can lobby for these demands, or even attempt to pass a bill, it is Congress that controls this fiscal responsibility.

On the issue of abortion, Bush feels that abortion is morally wrong, while Kerry feels that abortion should be left up to the states to decide upon.

Health care was another big factor in the election. Bush wants to promote medical-liabilty reform to help control rising insurance costs. He wants to use tax incentives and health savings accounts as a way for people to buy their own health insurance. The President has made it unclear as to whether he supports importation of drugs from Canada, however, in a few public remarks, Bush stated that it may be dangerous to do so. Kerry feels that health care coverage should be extended to at least 95% of Americans, including nearly all children. He is a staunch supporter of the importation of drugs from Canada as a way to lower drug costs.

While both Bush and Kerry agree on the No Child Left Behind Act, Kerry feels that it is inadequately funded, so he pledges to increase the funding for it.

However, the most important issue for young voters is the issue of Social Security. The state of these is in disarray, because, as Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan said, there is no money, or no plan, to fund it. If this continues, then young voters will no longer have the option of social security. Bush favors privatization of social security, where the individual gets to decide what to do with the money. They may invest it in the stock market, keep it for retirement, or use it for when it is needed. Kerry does not favor this because he believes that irresponsible individuals may use this money inadequately. Kerry plans to reduce the national deficit so that social security can be funded.

There are more issues than just these, but voters said that these were the issues that mattered the most to them.

Control of the White House came down to a handful of swing states, or states that were undecided on which candidate they would send their electoral votes too. Each state is given a number of votes, which they give to their candidate of choice. For example, Indiana has 11 electoral votes, all of which went to Bush. However, the swing states, were undecided as to which candidate they would give their votes to. A candidate needs 270 electoral votes. Bush had 181, and Kerry had 168.

The swing states, or "too close to call" states that the candidates were focusing their campaigns in were Florida, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa, Colorado, and New Hampshire.

The electoral collage was very important in the 2000 election, because it was technically the deciding factor in the presidential election. While Al Gore won the popular voter, meaning that more people wanted Mr. Gore, Bush won the electoral collage, so he was made President.

Although election day is long gone, over the course of the next four years, voters will still want to check to see if the president has carried through on his promises. Issues are yet to arise on what to do about the electoral collage.

So while many people criticize the government, they still do not know both sides of the issues. Many people believe that the government will not influence their life, however, the positions formed by the candidates are based on the reforms that they would like to affect the US as a whole, as well as affect the world.

Students head to election polls

Annie Baenen
Writer

As the election drew closer and closer, the tension between parties grew thicker and thicker. This was not only evident in the news media, but also in the halls of this school. During a lunch mod, a passing period, or in the middle of class, one might have overheard two students arguing about which candidate they thought would do a better job as President of the United States.

"I would like Senator John Kerry to win the election because I believe he would do a better job running our country than our present leadership," James Cohen (12) said before the election. "If Bush wins, the taxpayers' money will be used for things that the majority of the country does not want."

Cohen took off time from school to vote at the polls on election day.

On the other side of the spectrum, Tyler Freeland's (11) opinion differed.

"I want our current president George W. Bush to win the election because I believe he will make the right decisions on the war against terrorism, and he has better moral beliefs than Senator John Kerry," Freeland said.

Other students were apathetic about the election of 2004.

"I really don't care who wins or what happens," Taylor Underwood (10) said. "I have apathy toward the politics thing. I don't follow the election at all. It is not important to me and I just don't care as much as I probably should. I have faith that America will make the right choice."

Surveys have shown that only 30% of young adults ages 18 to 24 vote. A large portion of the America's population comprises young adults, so the voice of the youth has an impact on the national election.

However, this election, with such heated issues, many young adults are looking forward to casting their votes.

"It's just as important for young adults to vote as it is for adults to," Underwood said.

"It's very important for youths to vote," Katie Lopolito (11) said. "Voting is part of being a democracy. You have your opinions about the government, and voting is a way that you can be heard. Don't let other people choose for you."

Government teaches and social studies teachers also stressed the importance of voting in presidential elections, and other elections alike.

"It's very important for all eligible voters to vote, but only those who have educated themselves on the issues and platforms," social studies teacher Susan Summers said. "Young adults are impacted by government policies and should take part in the process."

The conflict in 2000 also encouraged many students to vote.

"After seeing what happened with the elections in 2000, I think every vote counts," Zach Gentry (10) said.

While the majority of high school students are not eligible to vote, everyone has their opinions. Many students attain their political opinions through their family and friends or through their government teachers and news.

Many students agree that most young adults follow in the footsteps of their parents and take the same political sides and views.

"I have some of the same views as my parents, but I don't agree with them on everything," Julia Poorman (11) said. "I get most of my political views from the news--mainly from listening to Sean Hannity. I like to think that I think for myself, but I know that my parents raised me with a biased opinion towards politics."

Surveys suggest that the nation's 10 million college students paid more attention to politics this year, in part because of 9/11 and the war in Iraq, which has touched them in ways not seen since Vietnam.

A Harvard University survey of 1,205 student in March found that 62 percent of students "definitely" planned to vote in the presidential election this year. Considering that barely a third of 18 to 24 year old voted in 2000, the implications this year were huge.

It is theory that the drawn-out 2000 election made students realize how much every vote counts. The terrorist attacks and war in Iraq kept them tuned in.

Speech team prepares early for upcoming season

Katie Corson
Writer

The members of the speech team have already began researching their topics for this year's competitions. The first speech team meeting was held on Wednesday, October 13 in the community room.

The meeting provided the upperclassmen in the team a chance to speak to this year's new members, and give them an idea of what to expect in the upcoming months.

"At my first meet last year, I was very nervous," Kamal Chera (10) said. "I didn't know what to expect. Competing became easier as the year went on though."

It may seem like speech team would not be a highly involved activity, but that is not true. Students choose one or two events out of ten to compete in.

The first two events are original oratory and original interpretation. In original oratory, students create their own piece on a subject of their choice which they then present orally to panel of judges at competitions. In original interpretation, students present their own interpretation of a piece of literature.

The next two events, humor and dramatic, are similar to original oratory. For humor, students present a piece that is humorous, which they then give at competitions. Dramatic is the same as humorous, but the subject of the piece is dramatic.

Many members of the speech team think that the duo event is the most humorous to watch. For the event, two students present a piece together, but they must do so without looking at each other. Two students could present a piece in which they have a forceful argument, but because they cannot look at one another it becomes funny to watch.

Of the ten events, two are done by groups of students; Discussion and Congress. The Discussion event is similar to debate. Students who participate in discussion learn the topic to be discussed two months in advance. Students use the time to do research, which they keep in a binder they use during the event.

"My event is Discussion," Chera said. "We discuss current topics, and it has helped improve my ability to communicate with others."

In the Congress event, students participate in a fictitious Congress. At a competition, four bills are presented, and they debate about whether or not the bills should be approved or ratified.

The events of Foreign Extemporaneous and Domestic Extemporaneous are very similar. Participants draw three topics, and then choose one which they will give a five to six minute speech about. They are then given 30 minutes to do research with materials provided at the competition.

For these events, students are allowed to write up to 50 words on a note card to aid them, but this is not recommended.

The final event is Impromptu. For the first round of the event, a participant is given one word, and is then given two minutes to plan a four to six minute speech about that word. In the second round, they are given a phrase, and are again given two minutes before they give a four to six minute speech.

For the final round, the student is given a news event, with two minutes to plan their speech.

When students decide to participate in speech team, they are able to pick their own event, and they may decide to participate in a different event at any time.

Each event consists of the three rounds, during which students are scored. The top placers from each event are then sent to the final round where they are again placed.

Last year, the team placed fourth overall at the sectional meet.

The speech team will also be holding it's first home meet ever this season.

"We compete almost every Saturday, and the competitions normally last all day," Chera said. "We've never hosted before, so I'm very excited."

The first meet of the season is November 13, at Westview High School. After Westview, the team competes at South Side High School.

"Being a part of the speech team has really helped me develop my vocal and speaking skills," Chera said. "It has also made it easier from me to give speeches in my classes. I really enjoy being on the team."

Standardized tests a standard for colleges

Amount of emphasis placed on ETS tests appropriate

Neil Shah
Writer

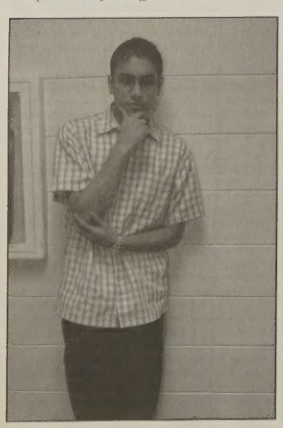
Standardized test scores have been a factor in college admissions for decades. Ever since the SAT (the letters which used to stand for "Scholastic Assessment Test" have not stood for anything since 1994) was introduced in 1901, standardized tests have become increasingly important to college-bound students. Many people have argued that colleges overemphasize students' scores on standardized tests like the SAT I, SAT II, and ACT (American College Test). Standardized tests are only one factor in college admissions, however, and they allow colleges to compare all of its applicants in one respect.

Competitive colleges consider a vast amount of information relating to each of its applicants to determine whether they should award admission. The emphasis they place on standardized test scores is fair because they are looking for students who excel academically. Coincidence does not account for the direct correlation between scores on tests like the SAT and Advanced Placement (AP) and academic performance in school. Exceptions to this rule exist, however, and people mistakenly assume that colleges do not acknowledge their existence. Colleges from IPFW to Harvard equally stress that the most important factor in admissions is the high school transcript (courses and grades, not the additional things featured on our transcripts at school like standardized test scores). The number one aspect of an applicant is his performance in high school and how much he took advantage of the most challenging courses offered at his school. Standardized testing never surpasses this aspect in importance. To illustrate, a Yale admissions officer said in a presentation that 60% of applicants that had a perfect score of 1600 on the SAT I were rejected. This statistic equally represents, however, that those with a perfect score on the SAT I were four times more likely to be accepted than every other applicant because Yale's overall acceptance rate was about 10% last year and 40% of applicants with a 1600 were accepted.

Furthermore, standardized tests offer a more complete analysis of a student at the national level. Difficult is the task to compare two students from completely different high schools that offer different courses with different names and different grading systems. One way that colleges have tried overcome this inconsistency is by considering class rank, which supposedly provides an accurate depiction of the student's performance relative to his fellow student at the same school. However, class rank is similarly plagued by the inconsistencies that logically arise from the sovereignty of each high school. Some of these include weighted or nonweighted grade point averages and multiple valedictorian and salutatorian situations that typically arise in a grading system that does not award pluses or minuses on their grades. Standardized tests eliminate these inconsistencies by allowing students from all different types of high schools to be compared to one another. In addition, colleges can more accurately gauge a student's performance because these tests have sparked the formation of more standardized classes in the form of AP or International Baccalaureate courses. For instance, if a student gets an A+ in his AP Biology class but proceeds to score a 2 (out of a possible 5) on the AP exam, the college can conclude that the class was probably not as rigorous as it should have been and that his A+ can probably be attributed to an unusually easy class. On the same token, if a student gets a B+ in his AP Calculus class but gets a 5 on the AP exam, the college can conclude that the class was probably rigorous and that the student's performance in the class is acceptable. With a standardized testing system, students' academic performances can be gauged with substantially greater accuracy.

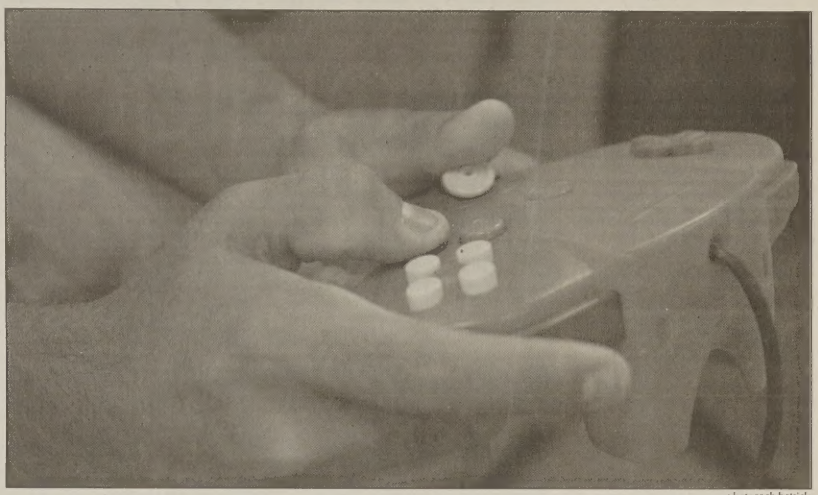
No college will accept an applicant solely on the basis of his SAT I score. The college admissions process is much more comprehensive. Standardized tests must continue to play a significant role in the admissions process, however, as they provide an absolute scale on which to gauge the student's relative performance that is offered by his transcript.

Neil Shah is a senior and works as a writer for the Spartana. *The views and opinions expressed in this editorial do not necessarily represent those of* the Spartana *or of its staff.*



Game over: the demise of N64

Computer, internet games continue to replace traditional game consoles



photozach hetrick

Tim Clark
Writer

A long time ago, video games used to be considered the next best thing to free money. Today, this isn't the case. Yes, there are still some crazed enthusiasts ramming their brains with useless but amusing pleasure. However, the video game has become less popular as more and more Americans have figured out that they can play these games and much more with anyone in the world via the internet. The years of playing your best friend in a good 'ole fashioned Mario adventure are over; in fact they have been for quite some time.

Ever since the invention of the video game, nearly five decades ago, children, teens, and adults have craved more games, more systems, and more technology. When Atari first came out with the most renowned home video game system of the time, people went nuts over it. This prompted the release of more generic and unknown gaming systems, such as the Odyssey, released by Magnavox. Years went by, and Atari and Nintendo were the main contenders. Entering the nineties however, a few new gaming systems came into play. Sega released its Sega Genesis in 1991 and then later released the Sega Saturn in 1995. Sony then released the Sony Playstation in 1994. For the next half decade no new video game players came into the arena with the exception of the now ancient Nintendo 64. The new millennium however brought change to the gaming world. In the year 2000 Sony released the Playstation 2, the most technological and entertaining console on the market. In that same year, Nintendo released its Nintendo Game Cube, as well as Microsoft's XBox. For the next year, these three companies waged war for sales, trying to do whatever it took to out-do the other.

> "...people want to be in contact with others who share their same likes and dislikes"

However, four years from that time, we look upon the gaming market today. There have been no new gaming consoles (no, the gameboys do not count), a mediocre amount of new games, besides your run of the mill sports games, and little headway trying to lure its fans away from computer games. The age has dawned to which people want more. With the new technological age people are able to communicate with people half way around the world. With this new technology spreading throughout American households, it is no wonder that people want to be in contact with others who share their same likes and dislikes. One way is for them to play online video games together. Sports games have soared in this market, becoming the most recognizable face in the online gaming world arena. People are less interested in the home console games. They want more. They want the extreme. Only a computer can give that at this point. The days of Super Mario and others like him are over. In the next ten years I can only see Sony making a valid run at keeping video game enthusiasts on board. Otherwise, most will resort to online gaming. Time will tell, but for now; its game over!

Tim Clark is a junior and works as a writer for the Spartana. *The views and opinions expressed in this editorial do not necessarily represent those of* the Spartana *or of its staff.*

Embryonic stem cell research a key tool in scientific progress

Legislation that bans progress in research on stem cells should not be encouraged

Javed Sayed
Opinions Editor

Scientists have known about stem cells for over a decade. Stem cells are germinative cells that have the ability to replicate, and differentiate an indefinite amount of times. Scientists are developing methods to use stem cells to cure previously incurable diseases.

Unfortunately, some people in the name of ethics are trying and have succeeded in partially limiting the development of stem cells. There are a variety of stem cells, one type being embryonic stems cells around which most of the controversy is revolving. There are four basic sources of embryonic stem cells which include existing stem cell lines, aborted or miscarried fetuses, unused in vitro fertilized embryos, and cloned embryos. However, recent legislation was passed that limited research funded by the government to be conducted only on embryonic stem cell lines created before August 2001. However, what is the reason? I don't really see the reason why new stem cell lines can't be created, especially if cures can be found that allow people who are paralyzed to be able to walk, people who are blind to see.

Regardless of laws in America, stem cells with all their promise will most definitely be researched and developed in the future. So there is little reason for people to insist on laws that will slow down the progress of this life-saving research. Laws that prohibit scientists from starting new embryonic lines are absurd. How is taking stems cells from a unused in vitro fertilized embryo, any different than just letting the embryo be frozen then eventually discarded? It's not any different; people who say keeping frozen embryos is all right, but making new embryonic stem cell lines is not are being hypocritical. Let's take a look at another hypocritical situation: the U.S. spends more money than any other country on the military, an institution meant for killing. If everybody's sense of ethics is so strong why isn't there a law about researching to create bombs, which kill hundreds of people?

At the heart of all the controversy is a simple question "what constitutes life?" When embryos are used to derive stem cell lines, the embryo is destroyed in the process. Those who are against embryonic stem cell research argue that the embryo has the potential for life and, therefore, destroying an embryo is like killing a person. However this logic seems a bit odd. Every cell in the body contains the DNA to make a human being and one can argue that any of these cells is "alive." During surgery people cut into and kill these cells all the time, and yet nobody complains.

Moreover, what many people who are "pro-life" do not see is that embryonic stem cells are potentially life-saving. The research that could be done on embryonic stem cells has many more benefits than risks. Some try to argue that adult stem cells offer the same research potential as embryonic stem cells. However this is just not the case. First, adult stem cells are difficult to find and isolate, and they do not grow rapidly outside the body. Also, embryonic stem cells have the ability to be differentiated into multiple types of tissues; however there is little proof that adult stem cells can do the same.

Overall, research on embryonic stem cells must be pursued to the fullest extent. It holds the key for the cure of diseases such as Parkinson's, Alzheimer's, and others.

Javed Sayed is a junior and works as the Opinions Editor for the Spartana. *The views and opinions expressed in this editorial do not necessarily represent those of* the Spartana *or of its staff.*

theMailbox

This letter is in response to Christy Landrigan's "article" in the October 8, 2004 issue of the Spartana, on whether or not AP and honors classes should be switched to a weighted grading scale. Throughout Christy's "article," which was more of an attack on the average student, she stated repeatedly that life is not fair. This is true and thus voids the logic that she uses throughout the "article." If life is not fair, and we should "get used to it now," then why would it be the right thing to do to weight honors classes' grades? Christy is, in a sense, making the weather and then complaining it's raining. If people that use to enroll in AP and honors classes do so knowing that it is a harder curriculum than that of normal classes, then why should these students be given a break? I don't believe it is right to pick a class knowing what it coming, then when you are not satisfied with your grade, complain that you should get help not provided to other students.

> "Christy is, in a sense, making the weather and then complaining it's raining."
> -Andrew Lupton

The way in which Christy Landrigan expresses her views in her "article" were flat-out insults aimed at people in non-AP and non-honors classes. In her "article," she made the normal students seem sub-human or servant-like, saying "some people are more destined to be successful than the rest of the population; from the moment they are created, they begin on a life journey to become leaders and money-makers of the world. The rest of the population cannot hope to compete with the intellect of these types of people in the real world." Well, I hate to think that a person who harbors thoughts and ideals such as those , let alone, a "person" who would say something like that, could someday be a leader. She also goes on to say, "the school is pandering to the wrong set of students." Again, if someone that carries these kinds of ideas is a leader and money-maker in the future, what kind of an America would we be living in? But, we don't really have anything to worry about, I don't think fascists go very far these days. But that's not the point. The point is that life is not fair. At least for the human beings not graced with the intellect of "people" like Christy Landrigan.

-Andrew Lupton (10)

George W. Bush *Incumbent Republican* OR John Kerry *Senator Democrat*

The editors break down the importance of issues in the election between George W. Bush and Senator John Kerry.

Matt Anderson
Sports Editor

This year's election to me came down almost completely to how people felt about the War on Iraq.

Although I personally felt that the economic ideas theories presented by the candidates should have been the most taxing issue, I feel that due to the constant flow of news from Iraq streaming across headlines, television screens, and radio waves, there is no way a citizen couldn't have known at least some of the issues circling the war.

Most of the voters I know today are pretty much set in their ways when it comes to voting in the Presidential races for the Democrat or Republican nominee, but for those who aren't, Iraq seems to have been the biggest push one way or the other for voters.

If a person disagreed with our country's reasons for entering Iraq, the way the situation was being handled, and the way some facts were stated that were not necessarily completely true, then they were probably pushed towards Kerry. However, if a person saw the war on Iraq as something needed to done and as a victory for the U.S., then they probably were swayed to vote for Bush.

So, even though I felt there were bigger issues to be focused on this election year, the ubiquity of the war probably made it the lead reason for voters to have chosen the candidate they did when they went to the booths that day.

Dillon Kimmel
News Editor

As a high school sophomore, I won't vote until I'm nearly 20. When it comes to politics, my knowledge is limited at best. My family is predominantly conservative, so I am in favor of Bush this election.

When I was told we would be writing about what we thought the most important issue this election was, I was a little concerned of taking on a subject I know little or nothing about.

But what I do know is what matters to me, and that is being able to get in a plane without worrying about who the guy is across the aisle. It is being able to rely on our government to keep our borders safe that is most important to me. We suffered greatly on September 11, and I want a government in place that will do everything in their power to prevent such an event from happening again. Americans want to know they are secure in their homes. Abortion can wait. Taxes can wait. Oil prices can wait. Our safety simply cannot wait.

I believe national security is the most important issue this election. That may not be the popular vote, but still being a kid myself, I want to feel safe. Security is what I want out of a president. In the years since September 11, George Bush has made me feel safe in my own home. I have confidence that he will continue to do so if reelected. If Kerry is elected, fine, but I pray he gives me the same comforting feeling I have felt the past three years under George W. Bush.

Suhasini Bhargava
Co-Editor in Chief

Hallways and classrooms have been buzzing with opinions about presidential candidates, the debates, and each political party's platform: students have criticized Senator John Kerry for proposing a raise in the minimum wage and others have criticized President George Bush for his support of a Constitutional amendment to ban gay marriage. Although social issues and the economy remain two important aspects of the elections, the public's focus should have been on foreign policy in regards to the presidential election.

The president has the greatest influence on the nation's foreign policy because neither can the president single-handedly change the economy, nor can he change the Constitution of the United States. Serving as the Chief Diplomat of the U.S. is one of the president's responsibilities that is not as heavily (as other responsibilities) monitored by Congress. For this reason, the most important issue in the election of 2004 should have been foreign policy involving both the war in Iraq and talks with North Korea.

Students and the general public must realize that Kerry's proposal about an increase in minimum wage cannot be executed out without Congress's approval. Similarly, the president's suggestion for a Constitutional amendment cannot become a reality without the consensus of 3/4 of the states.

Clearly, the president has the greatest impact on foreign policy; therefore, students should have placed the greatest emphasis on both candidates' foreign policies and lesser emphasis on their plans for improving the economy, changing the Constitution, or amending taxation.

Christy Landrigan
Surplus Editor

I don't expect the President to be a man I can trust; nor do I expect him to be intelligent. I don't even expect him to be someone who can communicate with clarity, though it would be nice if he could pronounce the word "nuclear" correctly. What I do expect of him is that he be someone who is capable of surrounding himself with trustworthy, intelligent people who can concisely advise him to a quick decision.

The things presidents are remembered for are not the long list of issues we overanalyze before the election or even the way they say certain words. They are usually recalled for how they react to unexpected events in office. Think Lincoln, FDR, Kennedy—civil war, economic depression, civil rights.

Intellectual intelligence may seem like a good trait to have in a president, but as I watched a PBS documentary about the lives of John Kerry and George W. Bush, I began to realize that it is not as great an asset as we often see it inflated. As President, one must make quick decisions. Weighing the options and possible consequences is not always an option. Interestingly enough, I believe that the most important issue of the election is the ability of the man elected to make quick, instinctual decisions.

Josh Zurawski
Co-Editor in Chief

Clearly the most important issue in the 2004 election was our national security, including homeland and the war in Iraq. Bush's platform centered around his new and improved (since 9/11) homeland security. Kerry's platform centered around Bush's mistakes, more specifically his "early" entry in Iraq.

In world with 40-some nuclear weapons missing, terrorist cells located in every corner of the globe, and bitter disputes between countries, the American people felt they needed an administration that could keep them secure. Bush has cracked down on homeland security since 9/11, and has taken preemptive strikes against Iraq, and now that Israel has purchased over 400 bunker bombs, it seems like he has also taken preemptive strikes against Iran as well.

Bush deserved to have won the election. Sure, he made a questionable call sending troops into Iraq on questionable intelligence, but I say better safe than sorry. If New York City or Chicago were blasted by a WMD, our economy would go into a depression similar to the Great Depression. If you don't think so, recollect what happened when two buildings in New York City were leveled, killing 3,000 people. Our economy fully recovered a year later. If half of New York City fell, the economy would suffer drastically. Over one thousand troops have lost their lives, but who knows how many more would have had we not captured Saddam. It is easy to second guess Bush now that we know Saddam didn't have WMD, but certainly we didn't second guess at the time.

Study of literature worthwhile in high school

Although some have asserted that the study of literature (including poetry and prose) in high school proves unpractical and useless in the "real" world, the importance of the comprehension and appreciation of literature proves its worth on a daily basis.

Often, "left-brained" individuals proclaim that the disciplines of math and science should supercede those of literature and language because math and science can be applied to careers and can be used to improve the quality of life. However, these individuals fail to realize that literature defines the human condition and gives meaning to life that cannot be achieved through the study of only math and science. Literature draws attention to the attitudes and behaviors of human beings. Similarly, it raises questions (and provides answers) about the way human beings perceive others and themselves. For example, *Hamlet* by William Shakespeare explores basic human experiences. The play provides to the reader insight on love, revenge, self-fulfillment, and death. These experiences are universal for the human race. Human beings experience love, life, and death on a daily basis. Without literature, humans would be unaware of certain human conditions, and they would fail to fully understand life.

Similarly, literature enriches the mind and forces individuals to think beyond the obvious answers. Unlike mathematics, literature does not always have black and white answers. Some argue that a lack of certainty in literature prevents literature from being a logical, and consequently, a worthless field of study. However, literature reflects the human condition (which is often far from logical and rational), and therefore does not need to be logical to prove worthy. Literature is as universal as mathematical theorems are because it conveys messages that all human beings can associate with.

Sometimes, poetry is attacked more than other types of literature are because poetry is difficult to understand for those who question its purpose and importance. Comparable to other types of literature, poetry is able to convey a message in a creative manner. Poetry is a brilliant combination of entertainment and education. Poetry is a transfer of wisdom from the poet to the reader. Usually, poets explore conditions that are difficult to understand and express. Often, they provide inspiration to students—without a basic knowledge of poetry, students would be unable to understand this inspiration.

To claim that literature has no value in a logical and realistic world is absurd. History has shown that works of literature have changed laws, norms, and societies. Satirical works by Charles Dickens helped unveil the problems of Industrial England. Similarly, *The Jungle* by Upton Sinclair uncovered injustices at meatpacking plants. In fact, this novel prompted the passages of the Food and Drug Act under President Theodore Roosevelt's administration. More recently, *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest* by Ken Kesey changed policies and procedures used in mental institutions.

Additionally, the study of literature in high school helps develop analytical and critical thinking skills. In literature classes, students are forced to logically organize thoughts and to focus ideas to prove a thesis accurate. Most literature classes in high school demand that students write essays and compositions about literature, forcing students to not only understand literature but to develop communication skills. Therefore, not only is literature important in society, its study in high school is extremely necessary.

Throughout history, literature has proven to change the world. It has been a valuable tool in understanding the human race, and in modern times, its study is a valuable asset to English teachers and nuclear scientists alike. **Editorial Board Vote: 3 for, 2 against.**

Archive Copy

Jim Katz
Writer

America bases its rights in the principles of freedom. Freedom has always been about choice. The freedom to choose one's religion is an example of this freedom of choice. Therefore, the freedom of choice when applied to abortion should not be stripped away from the ones desiring to exercise their freedom to choose.

The central "pro-life" argument is that life begins at the time of conception. The supporters of this view believe that from the moment the sperm meets the egg, the small group of cells is a baby. Therefore, to abort a fetus is murder in their eyes. This argument is flawed in its very basic assumption. It is undetermined when life begins from both a religious and scientific basis. To consider a small group of cells to be a child stretches the limits of believability. Even if "life" does begin before birth, to consider the fetus' rights as equal to if not greater than those of the mother is a narrow-minded idea.

Every living person has the right to live, but nowhere is there a right to be born. We live in a society with tiered rights. If you are a minor, you cannot vote until you are 18, or drink alcohol until you are 21. The same is true of the rights of a fetus. The rights of the fetus end when they conflict with the rights of the mother.

Another argument of "pro-life" advocates is that adoption is always a viable option for unwanted children. While this argument has some merit, it also has serious flaws. Since *Roe v. Wade* decision in 1973 there have been between 38 and 45 million abortions in the United States. Every year there have been between 750,000 and 1.6 million abortions.

As an example, in the year 1995, investigations showed that there were 500,000 women considering adopting a child. Of those, only 232,000 took serious steps towards adopting a child, and only 100,000 actually applied to adopt a child. By comparison, in 1995, there were between 1.2 and 1.4 million abortions. Had all of those fetuses been brought to term, even if all 500,000 women had adopted a child, that would have left between 700,000 and 900,000 unwanted, children born in the U.S. in one year.

If all unwanted pregnancies from 1973 to the present day had resulted in the birth of unwanted children, there could be between 21 and 27 million unwanted children in the United States. Who would raise these children? Although I personally know families who have adopted multiple children, I must also question how many families exist that would be willing to adopt even one child. It is estimated to cost $170,460 to raise a child to the age of 18. To raise all of these unwanted children it could cost between 3 and 5 trillion dollars. Where is that money going to come from?

I want it to be understood that I would love be able to see a world without abortion. I would love to see a world where only those who are ready and willing to become loving parents become pregnant. I would love to see a world where all conceptions would lead to children who are wanted. The problem is that we don't live in that ideal world. In a world with limited resources that is already straining to support the people already living, shouldn't we only have children who will have loving parents ?

We live in a real world with real people who make mistakes, and while abortion is unfortunate, it is also an unfortunate necessity. If we want to maintain the rights and the freedom of choice we hold so dear, we cannot limit freedom whenever passion strikes us. We must only limit freedom when there is irrefutable evidence why such freedom should be limited. In the case of abortion, there is no such evidence.

Jim Katz is a junior and works as a writer for the Spartana. *The views and opinions expressed in this editorial do not necessarily represent those of* the Spartana *or of its staff.*

The Facts

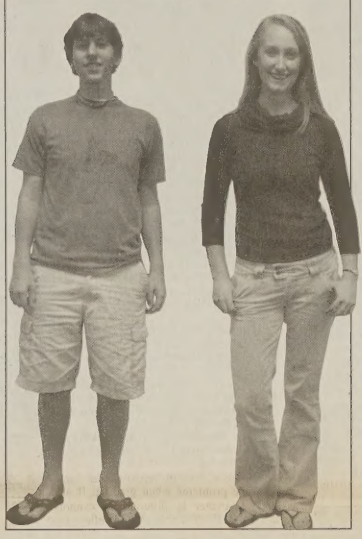
As of 1996 there were about 1.37 million abortions taking place annually.

About 52% of the women having abortions in the United States are less than 25 years old.

About 64% of abortions are being carried out on women who have never been married.

About 6% of abortions take place because of potential heath problems regarding the mother.

courtesyofTheCenterforBioEthicalReform



Christy Landrigan
Surplus Editor

Life is a right, not a privilege.

One major argument that opponents of abortion use is that a fetus is not fully developed when it is aborted. An oak is and remains an oak while it is a seed or a sapling. A teenager is no less human because he is not yet an adult, nor an infant because he is not yet a toddler, nor a fetus that has not yet been born. No matter the stage of development, we are all always human beings.

Nothing can make us chimpanzees. At the moment of conception when two strands of RNA combine to form unique human DNA, we are less of a person than any other developmentally. But is that to say that because someone is inferior in development, their life is less worth living? What development is most important? Physical, mental, emotional? No, it is impossible to define which stage is most important. We are born with human DNA, which defines us uniquely as what we are.

This claim brings me to another point. During procreation, the woman and man are two separate entities. The same is true of a woman and the life she carries. Though one is dependent on the other for survival, they are two entirely different beings. The argument that women should be allowed to choose what to do with their bodies is completely and emphatically true. They make this choice when they choose to participate in procreation.

After the choice to engage in intercourse, the choice is no longer about a woman's body because she has made the choice to submit herself to whatever consequences occur as a result of intercourse. Decisions she will make from now on become about others: the man she engaged in the activity with, and the potential life they created.

It is wrong for a mother to decide to end the life of her hour old baby, or even her minute old baby, especially through the means of most abortionists.

Terrified mothers who have their children in public bathrooms and dispose of the bodies are persecuted for murder, child abuse, and child neglect. How sad. How tragically sad that these mothers who do make the moral choice to carry their babies to term do not follow the pregnancy by taking a trip to a local crisis pregnancy center. Even sadder is the fact that if the baby had not been born, she could have legally disposed of the child in a garbage bin filled with tiny, disjointed, bloody body parts.

Next time you argue that you cannot tell a woman what she can or cannot do, stop and think how many times a day the government tells us what we can or cannot do. We cannot steal. We cannot cheat on our taxes. We cannot plot against our government. We cannot abuse our pets. We cannot abuse children. We cannot kill fellow human beings.

As for telling a woman what she can and cannot do to or with her body, the government tells us these types of things also. We cannot use certain drugs that harm our being, and even suicide is illegal. Don't avoid taking a stance by telling me that you can't tell someone what they can or cannot do with their bodies unless you are willing to stand idly by while an anorexic girl starves herself to death or detachedly watch a man hurl himself off of a skyscraper. Don't tell me that you cannot tell a woman what to do with her body. She made the choice of what to do with her body when she had sex.

The issue is not about her body; it concerns another human being's that has unique DNA, fingers, toes, eyes, a personality, and a beating heart. She had the freedom of choice when she chose to have sex.

Christy Landrigan is a senior and works as the Surplus editor for the Spartana. *The views and opinions expressed in this editorial do not necessarily represent those of* the Spartana *or of its staff.*

Choice or life: the abortion debate continues

Student Input

"I feel that abortion should be optional. If someone wants to get an abortion then they should, but I still think it's a bad thing.

Chelsea Snyder (9)

"I think it's like murder pretty much. I just think you're cutting that life short [by having an abortion]. I think if you want to have sex, but don't want to face the repercussions you shouldn't have sex.

Tyler Freeland (11)

"I think it should be the women's choice. It is between the women, her deity, and the doctor.

Kurt Nettleton (11)

AMERICAN EAGLE EDDIE BAUER CHICK-FIL-A QUIZNO'S SHARPER IMAGE OLD NAVY CLAIRE'S THE BUCKLE SUNGLASS HUT BARNES & NOBLE
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Reweaving early American history

Sophomore block students assume identities of famous American historical figures for research projects, creative presentations

Larry Buchanan
Associate Surplus Editor

In place of typical research papers, Honors English 10/AP U.S. History Block teachers Kathy de Calonne and Jim Schmidt assign a tea party research project.

"The tea party project is an interdisciplinary project that has several purposes," Schmidt said. "One, it improves research skills. Two, it allows for creative writing, and three it helps with public speaking and role playing. Each student is assigned a character for their tea party projects. With each character comes an event or a topic."

First, the students have to research the topic and event using the traditional note-card (Travis) method. Then they have to formulate some kind of project from the point of view of their characters. They tell the characters' views on the event, which come with their character. For example if a Native American was the person a student was assigned, the project might be a hand written journal, or a series of letters to another Native American.

"Many students choose to a series of letters," de Calonne said. "Even though many people do them, they are still unique very and creative each time."

Contrary to the typical research paper, this project is open ended and allows students to be extremely creative with their ideas, and "think outside the box," Schmidt said.

Galen Harden (10) was assigned a character who would have used a type writer to write his letters. Harden went to his grandmother's house to use her old-fashioned type writer for his project.

"The project is just so much more creative than your typical research paper," Harden said. "You get to enact people and you get free food."

Natalie Sistrunk (10) was assigned Pocahontas. Sistrunk chose to do a journal for her project.

On the other hand, this creativeness does create some problems when grading. If an assigned character is illiterate or cannot write very well, then that should reflect in the student's paper,

"[If the character is illiterate or cannot write well] the 'mistakes' made should be consistent throughout the project," Schmidt said.

Following the project, a Colonial Tea Party is held. Five or six "characters" from the class are invited to this fictional tea party to discuss their lives and events.

"It has taught me a lot," Harden said. "Such as, how hard it is to understand someone else's perspective."

Each of the characters is not necessarily from the same time period, but they instantly start finding connections with each other.

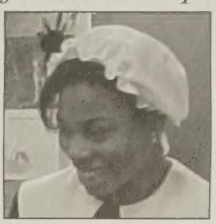
"As soon as the students start talking, they find connections that they don't even realize were there," Schmidt said. "It's fun because no two are ever the same. We do this project every year and we find out new things about the characters each year because history grows, we know more about it, and it also depends upon the motivation of the student. Many of the students choose to research different aspects of the character."

The students are not prompted with a question by de Calonne or Schmidt, but are given forty minutes in class to discuss.

"You get to see the reaction of on peoples faces [when someone says something that would offend their character]," Brian Laipple (10) said. "It is interesting seeing the actual viewpoint of the person back in history."

After about five weeks worth of work, the project is worth a total of 140 points. The students will work on an FY1 project next nine weeks.

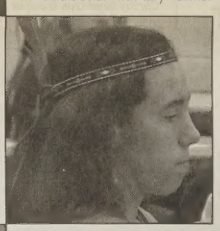
"The tea party project is probably the equivalent of reading a novel and testing over it," Schmidt said. "You also get history with it, so it will reflect in the student's grade. We find that many of the students don't like it as it's going on, but when it is all said and done, are very proud of their final projects. It's a project that sticks with you."



« Kim Sanders (10) smiles as Mary Rowlandson, who was a colonist whose family was kidnapped and killed in a raid during King Philip's War. Rowlandson was the only member of her family spared from the violence but was treated fairly by the Native Americans who held her captive. Native Americans have been disadvantaged since colonial times.

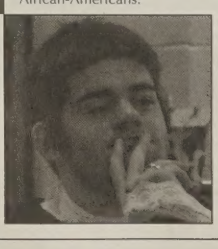
> ... I felt the students were excited about the project because of the participation where 61 out of 62 students chose to costume themselves and really get into the character. — Jim Schmidt

^Trevor Krall (10) is costumed as Metacomet, known as King Philip to early Americans. «Francessca Cardillo (10) is pictured in her new identity as Marquis de Lafayette. Lafayette came to America from France to help George Washington win the revolutionary war by training troops in traditional military drills.

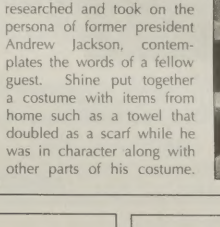


»Autumn Stivers-Biscuso (10) listens intently as another guest at her tea party speaks. Playing the part of Sacajawea during her tea party, Stivers-Biscuso had the task of reporting on the relations between early colonists and Native Americans, even though Sacajawea was from a later period in history.

« Danielle Gauthier (10) is Prudence Crandall. Crandall was of Quaker descent and she opened a private school for girls. She admitted an African-American student into the school causing controversy and uproar within the community. She decided to maintain the school for only African-Americans.

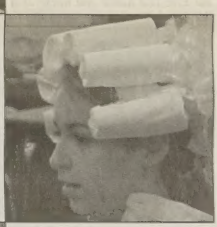


» Keith Couture (10) contemplates the words of another guest as Francis Scott-Key, who was captured by the British in the defense of Fort McHenry. Couture wore his home-made purple corduroy costume all day unlike other students who chose to change into and out of their costumes only for the presentations.

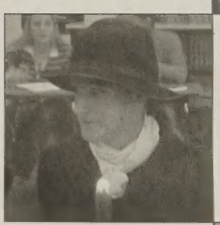


»David Jarmus (10) responds to the remark of another tea party guest. Jarmus assumed the part of William Penn for his presentation and research project. During the tea party, Jarmus reported on propriety, royal, and charter colonies. Sometimes students agreed with guests at their tea parties; at other times, students disagreed.

« Megan Farmer (10) listens silently to the remarks of another tea party guest as she plays the role of Martha Washington, wife to first president George Washington. Farmer focused on conversing as Washington about how she defined the role of future first ladies while her husband was president.



» Christine Hansen (10) speaks to classmates as if she were Cotton Mather, an early colonist. While speaking, she highlighted her researched knowledge of the practices and beliefs of Puritanism. Like other students' props, her wig was created at home with available materials.



« Beth Niner (10) plays the part of a male historical figure, Roger Williams who established the colony of Providence, Rhode Island. Teachers de Calonne and Schmidt try to include as many women as possible in the list of possible figures to be researched, a difficult goal to achieve.

» Henry Shine (10), who researched and took on the persona of former president Andrew Jackson, contemplates the words of a fellow guest. Shine put together a costume with items from home such as a towel that doubled as a scarf while he was in character along with other parts of his costume.

photos/kathy decalonne

News from your Student Government

If you have questions, concerns, suggestions, or comments you can contact Student Government at **431.2941** or e-mail us at **HHSStugov@sacs.k12.in.us**

Semi-formal will be at the Coliseum again this year. The dance will be held on December 4th from 8 - 12 pm.

Adopt-a-family has begun! Each fifth period class has had a Student Government representative come to their class and talk about what Adopt-a-family is. Each student is asked to donate approximately $2 - $3. You can turn the money into your fifth period teacher. The money you donate will go to help a family or a senior citizen buy a Christmas dinner, clothes, and other items that they would not otherwise be able to afford. Thank you for all of your help! The money will be collected on November 15.

For more information on Student Government see page 1A.

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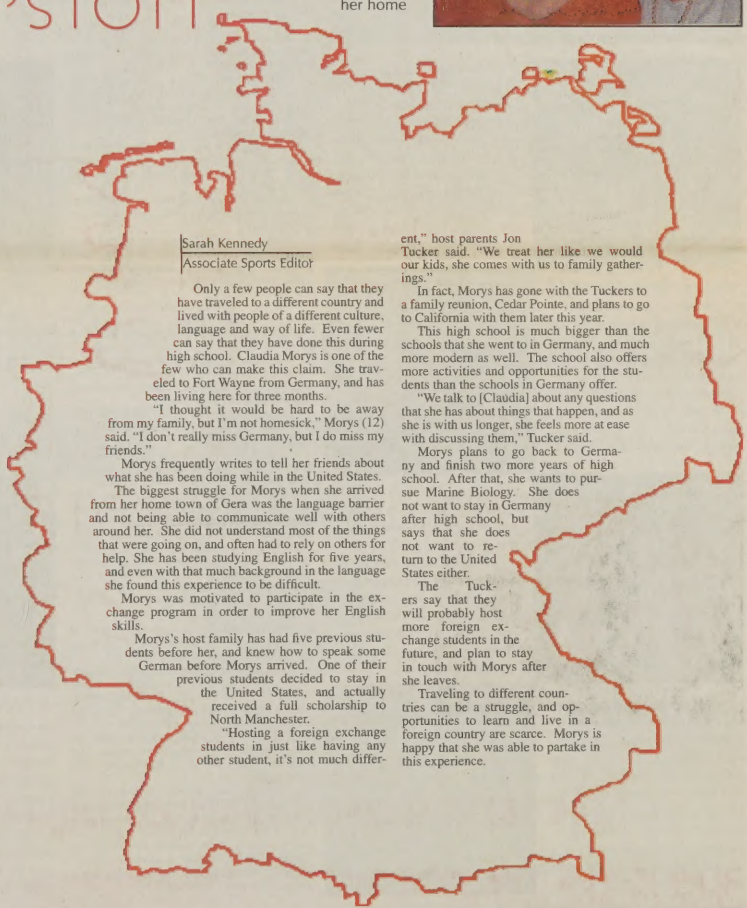
Claudia Morys travels from Gera, Germany to experience life as an American student for a year while living with a family that has hosted many other exchange students in the past.

American Immersion

Morys poses » with her aunt in her home

« A building reflects off of a pond in Morys's hometown of Gera, Germany. With its population of 111,600, Gera is the second largest city in the Free State of Thuringia.



Sarah Kennedy
Associate Sports Editor

Only a few people can say that they have traveled to a different country and lived with people of a different culture, language and way of life. Even fewer can say that they have done this during high school. Claudia Morys is one of the few who can make this claim. She traveled to Fort Wayne from Germany, and has been living here for three months.

"I thought it would be hard to be away from my family, but I'm not homesick," Morys (12) said. "I don't really miss Germany, but I do miss my friends."

Morys frequently writes to tell her friends about what she has been doing while in the United States.

The biggest struggle for Morys when she arrived from her home town of Gera was the language barrier and not being able to communicate well with others around her. She did not understand most of the things that were going on, and often had to rely on others for help. She has been studying English for five years, and even with that much background in the language she found this experience to be difficult.

Morys was motivated to participate in the exchange program in order to improve her English skills.

Morys's host family has had five previous students before her, and knew how to speak some German before Morys arrived. One of their previous students decided to stay in the United States, and actually received a full scholarship to North Manchester.

"Hosting a foreign exchange students in just like having any other student, it's not much different," host parents Jon Tucker said. "We treat her like we would our kids, she comes with us to family gatherings."

In fact, Morys has gone with the Tuckers to a family reunion, Cedar Pointe, and plans to go to California with them later this year.

This high school is much bigger than the schools that she went to in Germany, and much more modern as well. The school also offers more activities and opportunities for the students than the schools in Germany offer.

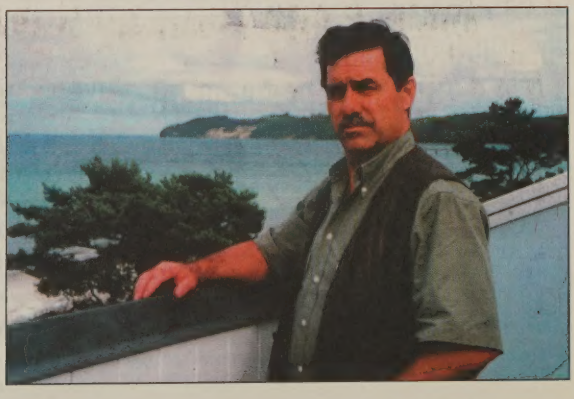
"We talk to [Claudia] about any questions that she has about things that happen, and as she is with us longer, she feels more at ease with discussing them," Tucker said.

Morys plans to go back to Germany and finish two more years of high school. After that, she wants to pursue Marine Biology. She does not want to stay in Germany after high school, but says that she does not want to return to the United States either.

The Tuckers say that they will probably host more foreign exchange students in the future, and plan to stay in touch with Morys after she leaves.

Traveling to different countries can be a struggle, and opportunities to learn and live in a foreign country are scarce. Morys is happy that she was able to partake in this experience.

« A few of Morys's friends sit on the ledge of a sidewalk at a grocery store in Gera.



Morys's » father rests on a balcony at their home. Morys's family consists of her mother, father, brother, and sister.

Rollin'

Spartan football rolls over Goshen and Northrop, played Snider on Friday.

p. 2

Sports

Fall Finale

Fall sports teams seasons in review: Football, soccer, golf, tennis, cheerleading, and volleyball.

p. 4

issue 5 • the Spartana • November 10, 2004

Advancing to State

Although the varsity cheerleading squad placed fourth at its regional competition, the criteria for advancing to the state competition have been changed, allowing the squad to move on to the next level

Jessica Bird
Writer

When one thinks of high school, fall sports, football is most likely the main sport to come to mind. With football, one might think of the fields, the myriad of fans flocking to the stadium each Friday night home game, and of course, cheerleaders. The work of the cheerleader, however, does not stop at football games. The squad also competes in competitions.

"We have three competitions this season," Katie Jacobson (11) said. "We received 3rd at NHC, which was back in September. We did really well there considering we had to redo the whole routine in a week due to injuries."

On Saturday, October 30, the cheer squad performed at Dwenger for regional competition. "Homestead you may take the floor," the announcer said.

A few mistakes led to a disappointing fourth place for the team.

Normally, the top three teams advance to the state competition, however, the requirements were changed allowing the squad to advance.

Some think that the cheerleading season only ends when football ends. This, however, is not the case.

"Football season is competition season, but then we start cheering right after that for basketball," Jacobson said.

To prepare for competition season, which goes on during basketball season, the cheerleaders stay in shape by working throughout the winter.

"Football season starts in August, and right after that is basketball season," Jacobson said. "We get about a month for a break, and then tryouts and camp starts in the summer. We are expected to attend tryouts and camp for varsity squad."

When the football team is loosing a game, it is the cheerleaders' responsibility to remain cheerful and hopeful that the game will turn around.

"It's a lot harder to get the crowd involved and to stay positive until the end of the game when they are losing," Alyssa Haggen (11) said.

The new turf on the field seemed to affect the football team in a losing and winning respect. The first game the team played on the new turf was a huge success, while the next one was not.

"The field made more of a difference in the beginning of the year," Heather Middleton (11) said. "I think everyone took pride in their school and it showed on the field."

The routines used for competitions are choreographed during the winter.

When the football season ends, it is only the beginning for the cheerleading season.

We received 3rd at NHC, which was back in September. We did really well there considering we had to redo the whole routine in a week due to injuries.
Katie Jacobson (11)

photojack rozman

Vicki Toth (12) performs a cheer at the competiton held at Dwenger, last Saturday. The cheerleaders placed fourth scoring enough points to advance to state.

Volleyball finishes season second in NHC conference

Sam Van Horn
Writer

After finishing its regular season 13-11-1, the volleyball team had to travel to South Side to play its opening round of sectionals. The Spartans would have to face challenging teams such as Huntington North and Northrop if they were to advance to the regional.

Round 1 for the Spartans meant playing a struggling South Side team that was below .500. Despite never having played them this season, the Spartans were heavily favored to come away with the victory.

"It's easy to lose when you're too over confident," Danielle Gauthier (10) said. "You have to go in thinking that they're a good team."

> It's easy to lose when you're too over confident. You have to go into it thinking that they're a good team.
>
> -Daniel Gauthier (10)

In the first match the team members defeated their opposition 25-14, and in the second, won with a 25-10 score. In what was looking like a blowout, South Side did not give up and came within two points of a win. However, the Spartans proved victorious and defeated them 3-0. In the game, Jill DeArmond (12) led the team with 22 assists, all of which were spread out among the team to accumulate the points. Leading the team in attacks and second in kills was Gauthier with 16 and 5, respectively. On defense, Gauthier also was dominant with 5 digs, tying with Erica McMahon (11) as the most on the team. Overall, they gave a team effort which helped them shut out their opposition against South Side High School.

After getting through round one, the team had to face its first challenge of the sectional against Huntington North. The Spartans had already played them in the regular season and were beaten 3-2 in September at home. They did everything they could to make sure that the same result would not happen twice.

The game against Huntington North was held on October 23, at South Side. In the first match, the Spartans were narrowly defeated 25-23. Unfortunately, that was close as they would get to a win; as Huntington North went on to win the next 2 games 25-19.

"We're disappointed," Gauthier said about the loss. "But we played the best we did all season."

Despite the loss, the team played exceptionally well. McMahon had two aces for the team, and was also second in attacks and digs with 13 and 6. DeArmond was second on the team with kills and digs finishing with 5 and 6. She also led the squad with 3 blocks. Gauthier led the team with 20 attacks and also contributed with 5 digs.

The season ended for the Spartans with a record standing at 14-12-1. The team also finished second in the conference. The varsity volleyball team is very young with only one senior, five juniors, and seven sophomores.

"It's going to be a good season," Gauthier says about next year. "We'll be a good team."

With an inexperienced team, the Spartans were still able to finish second in conference. However, with a year's more experience, they look to be in great shape to jump a spot into first place in the NHC.

upcoming winter sports

Boys Basketball
-Coach: Chris Johnson

Girls Basketball
-Coach: Rod Parker

Wrestling
-Coach: Randy Pursley

Gymnastics
-Coach: Ericka McEvoy

Boys Swimming
-Coach: Chad Englehart

Girls Swimming
-Coach: Chad Englehart

Boys hockey team begins new season

Joe Salisbury
Writer

As the fall sports season comes to an end, the Spartan hockey team is ready to begin its season. The club hockey team opened up its season on October 6th, ready to show off all its hard work from the off-season.

The team's first game, against rival Northrop, was a perfect time to show how much they had improved; the game was a good indicator as to how the season was going to go. The team came out firing, on their way to an impressive 8 to 3 victory. In their next game, on October 13th, they faced the Northside Redskins. After coming out flat, the Redskins scored early. Fortunately, the team was able to bounce back and eventually tie the score at 2-2. However, Northside picked it up a notch and scored the next three goals, ending in a 5-3 loss for the Spartans.

In their next game, they faced a strong Snider hockey team. The team regrouped from their loss last game, and pounded out an 8-4 win. Jordan Churchill (12) had three goals for the team, and Zak Bradenburg (11) had two goals. They battled back from an early 2-1 deficit, and had four goals in the second period and then three more in the third to help get the victory.

With a lot of important games coming up in the next few weeks, the team has already improved tremendously. However, the team feels it needs to work on defensive zones and power play goals. Team members think that they can correct these problems and hopefully win their third straight league championship.

Along with the new season, the team also got a new assistant coach. Former Carroll head coach Tim Ryan has decided to join the staff and help out the team as much as he can. He has several years of coaching and with playing experience.

The team played on October 27th against the New Haven Bulldogs. Then on November 3rd, Coach Ryan faced his former team, the Carroll Chargers.

Prior to the start of the league season, the Spartans competed in several tournaments and played against good competition. In addition to the league season, the team competes in Crossover games. These games are played against other teams from around the state and the Midwest region. Their first Crossover game is on December 19, against Noblesville. Then starting on December they play in the Holiday Tournament in Fort Wayne, at McMillen Park Ice Arena.

The Spartan hockey looks to build upon a strong start and hopes that they can once again claim the League Championship. Also, they hope that they can advance far into the state tournament and take home a state championship.

Hockey Schedule

Wednesday, November 3- Vs. Carroll @ 7:30 P.M.
Wednesday, November 10- Vs. Snider @ 8:30 P.M.
Wednesday, November 17- Vs. New Haven @ 7:30 P.M.
Wednesday, November 24- Vs. Northrop @ 6:30 P.M.

photo/jack rozman

1: Alex Batel (11) runs during a meet. 2: Steve Clark (11) runs at a meet. Cutout: Gerelle Ladner (10) runs with the ball during a game. 3: Kenneth Perkins (11) runs past a Northrop defender, helping the Spartans win.

Conference schedule marred by four losses

With disappointing regular season, team wins post-season games against Goshen, Northrop

Evan Childers
Writer

Varsity football has always been a source of pride for the school's athletic program. But this year the football team did not live up to its pre-season expectations, and struggled much of the season.

Part of the team's difficulties could be due to brand new coaching staff. Of course, it can be expected that any team under similar circumstances might struggle.

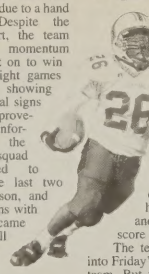
"I really like the coaching staff," senior Offensive Lineman Ryan Houlihan said. "Practices are a lot more intense and they prepare us well for the games."

Unfortunately for varsity football, these transitional issues, coupled with the squad's underachievement, led to the difficulties that marred the Spartans' regular season. The football team finished 5-4 on the year.

"Well, we are obviously disappointed with how we finished the regular season." Houlihan said. "But we are confident that we can play strong in the post-season."

> "Despite the late season losses, we are happy with how we are practicing and we feel confident that it will translate into a long run in the post-season"
> Ryan Houlihan

The season started poorly, and seemed to end just as badly. The Spartans stumbled early, starting off 1-2 while suffering injuries to several players. Many of the injuries proved to be temporary, but standout defensive back Ryan Chenoweth (12) was lost for the season due to a hand injury. Despite the poor start, the team gained momentum and went on to win four straight games while showing substantial signs of improvement. Unfortunately, the varsity squad proceeded to drop the last two games of the regular season, and both losses came from teams with losing records. One loss came on homecoming night, of all nights, when the Spartans turned the ball over seven times to Norwell. The Spartans lost that confrontation 9-7. Then, in the final game of the regular season, the Spartans were shut out by New Haven, 12-0, and the loss was again at home.



"Despite the late season losses, we are happy with how we are practicing and we feel confident that it will translate into a long run in the post-season." Houlihan said.

Indeed, the Spartans came out strong in the first game of the post-season, winning 47-0 against Goshen.

"Team unity is strong, especially now that we are in the playoffs; we really have come together. We're all working together for the team, we're all fully aware that each game could be our last." Houlihan said.

In the second post-season game against Northrop, the team struggled early but the defense came out strong in the second-half. The Spartans won 23-6, and did not allow Northrop to score in the second half.

The team's hopes were high going into Friday's game against a tough Snider team. But the Spartans' team unity and stingy defense was still banking on an upset of this top-echelon opponent. Results from this game were unavailable as of press time.

photo/zach hetrick

Cross country girls place 18th in state; boys advance zero runners

Boys cross country advanced one runner Steve Clark to semi-state competition at Indiana-Purdue Ft. Wayne; girls advance seven runners to state

Jared Baker
Writer

As fall turns to winter, the Spartan boys cross country season is over, and girls cross country season nears its end.

The boys had an unfortunate season, but struggled in sectionals advancing only one runner, Steve Clark (11) to semi-state

Clark made it out of sectionals and his regional, advancing to semi-state where he place 70th, ending his season.

"The competition was tough throughout sectionals and the regional, and semi-state turned out to be too much," Clark said.

The team won one meet during the season, and Clark, the team's top runner, won twice individually and never finished worst than 4th.

"I was confident going into sectionals that I would move on, and overall I was pretty satisfied with how I did," Clark said.

The girls, who have been highly ranked since the beginning of the season, have been very successful advanced seven runners to Terre Haute on October 30th for the state meet.

Bliss Cook (12), Amber Piercy (12), Joy Nordin (11), Alex Batel (11), Emily Nestel (11), Kelsey Knapp (9) and Erin Quinn (9) all ran at the state competition two weeks ago.

Christina Peters (10) and Beth Niner (10) were alternates for the race.

"I have been excited with the overwhelming effort of every girl on the team, we've had a fun season with lots of laughs this year," Cook said.

Cook, who placed 43rd at semi state with a time of 16:15 is running in her last race of her high school career. The same holds true for Piercy.

"I really can't wait to run this Saturday since it's my last high school cross country race ever," Cook said.

Kelsey Knapp (9) and Alex Batel (11) were the top runners at semi-state for the Spartans.

Knapp placed 27th running a 15:50 and Batel who ran a 15:52 placed 29th.

"We all just need to focus and run well so we can leave happy with our performance," Nordin, who placed 50th at semi-state said.

"I hope we can place in the top 15 because I know we race well when we are focused to race," Cook said.

The girls, who faced very stiff competition at the state meet, produced an 18th place finish out of the twenty teams competing from around the state.

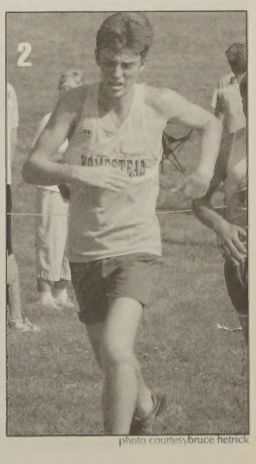


photo courtesy/bruce hetrick

JV cheerleaders compete at regional competition, plagued by injuries

photozach hetrick

Cheerleaders at a pep session.

Caitlin Myers
Writer

As the team heads into rough obstacles in the middle of their season, the girls JV cheerleaders are not willing to let any problems interfere with their chance to have a successful outcome during the team's competitions. Problems such as a lack of people on the squad, in addition to injuries arose before the team could compete in any competitions.

The team's most recent competition should have been Brebeuf, which would have taken place on Saturday, October 16th, but the team was not able to go through with the competition because of the lack of teams that did not enter. This competition would have taken place in Indianapolis.

This year, there is a lack of cheerleaders for the JV team due to injuries and a few of the cheerleaders quitting the team. This has caused the JV squad to pull up the entire freshmen team in order for them to enter the competitions. The JV and the freshmen are now competing together as one team at the JV level. Although the freshmen help them with their competing, they, however, do not help them cheer for the games. Their most recent competition was regionals at Bishop Dwenger, which took place Saturday, October 30th. The team has not had any other competitions before regionals to have helped them prepare.

"I think we should do okay," Kylia Rorbrock (10) said. "Since the freshmen are competing with us, we will do a lot better than we would have with just JV. It's going to be difficult since we haven't been able to compete before regionals. The combination of the JV and freshmen routines looks really cool. I think we'll do well."

Even though the squad has not competed in as many competitions as it would have liked to, its hard work during its long practices has helped members prepare enough for regionals. On Mondays, they have gymnastic practice from 3-5, competition practice from 5-7 on Tuesdays, competition practice from 6-8 on Wednesdays, and on Thursdays they would have their game day practices, but since the JV football is over, they use that time for competition practice from 5-6:30.

"It has been a hard year for the JV squad, but we can over come it, hopefully by doing well at regionals on October 30th," Heather Middleton (11) said. "Now that we have competed at regionals, our next competition is State."

After the fall season is over the JV squad, they will then go on to the winter season where they will cheer at the basketball games. During the basketball season, there will be no competitions for the girls to compete in.

"Our winter season is really laid back because we don't have any competitions," Middleton said. "Fall is our competition season so we just practice for the basketball games."

Despite the struggles the JV squad has had this fall, they still act as one. The injuries have not done anything to mess up the unity of the team. The girls on the JV squad are friends, helping each other out whenever they need to. They tailgate before the football games, and have cheer parties on the weekends.

The girls on the JV squad work really hard this year in hopes of making the varsity squad next year. This year is like a trial to prove oneself to the varsity coach.

The squad has been through struggle after struggle this season, but nothing seems to be stopping them.

Freshmen finish season on top

Football team finishes season strong, undefeated with a record of 9-0

photosjack rozman

Wide receiver Brandon Derck (9) eludes a defender and escapes into an open hole. Phil Reimen (9) jumps to catch a pass.

Josh Butcher
Writer

It was halftime and the young Spartans were trailing 14-7. An undefeated season was on the line; all the more pressure. This New Haven team had surprised the Spartans by being more skilled than they had expected, but the Spartans remained assiduous. They came together scoring 21 points in the third quarter, not only finishing out the season without a loss, but creating more memorable moments as well.

Coach Jeff Livensparger had a lot to live up to by having an undefeated season last year, but he couldn't have done any better, having yet another undefeated season.

"Coach Livensparger is really great," Ryan Wright (9) said. "He made it really fun, and taught us all some good lessons."

"He's an awesome coach to have," Brandon Derck (9) said. "He is nice and has a good sense of humor, which makes it fun."

In the past two year, Livensparger has come very close, but still has not lost a game.

The quarterback is a leader on the field and that is exactly what Wright was. A QB cannot panic, cannot become dejected when losing, and must keep the team motivated on the field. Wright possessed all these traits to lead the Spartans to their undefeated season.

"Ryan was the center of our team," Derck said. "Not only did he do his job as quarterback, but he also contributed on the defensive end."

"Ryan led us on offense and also had some great hits on defense this year," Drew Edmondson (9) said.

Although a football team is not made of one player, it is made up of many players as one.

"The team had great chemistry," Wright said. "We liked each other, which is important. We didn't criticize, but helped keep one another up. No one from Summit or Woodside had an undefeated season, so it was great for us to come together this year and do it."

"We all listened to each other and helped each other out," Derck said. "The season was great, we all tried our best."

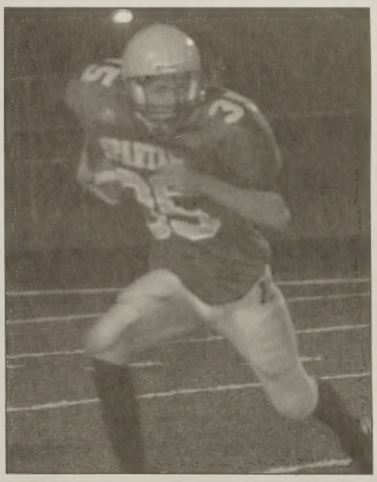
Other players commented on valuable players on the team.

"In my opinion the most valuable players were Brandon Derck and Nick Edwards," Wright said. "Brandon always came through on big plays, and Nick dominated on defense."

The defense was the integral part of the team. They didn't give up many yards, which was their main strength.

"Our line was definitely our strength, it was great," Edmondson said. "But we also had great backs and receivers too. We didn't have too many weaknesses. A couple of times this year we played down to the other teams level, but we were still a solid team."

The Spartans have walked away from their season very pleased. Working as a team, they came together and got it done. Two straight seasons without a loss has not only proved Livensparger to be a strong coach, but shows that this freshmen class will be a tough team to beat in years to come.



Ross Heckber (9) runs with the ball during their final victory against New Haven.

Scoreboard

Huntington North	13-0
Warsaw	21-0
East Noble	20-6
Columbia City	34-0
Bellmont	22-14
Dekalb	21-6
Carroll	27-7
Norwell	21-0
New Haven	35-20

photosjack rozman

The offensive line prepares for a play to win against New Haven.

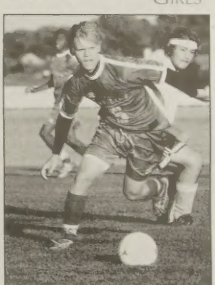
JV fall sports wrap-up

photozach hetrick

13-12 *Volleyball* Girls

photojack rozman

10-4 *Soccer* Girls



photozach hetrick

9-4 *Soccer* Boys

photozach hetrick

10-0 *Tennis* Boys

From top to bottom: Stacey Rorick (10) serves the ball. Danae Walker (9) passes to a teammate. Zach Gentry (10) kicks the soccer ball. Javed Sayed (11) returns a serve.

FALL FINALE

Soccer, Football, Volleyball, Cross Country, Tennis, Golf, Cheerleading end fall season of sports for 04-05 year

Tyler Keena
Writer

Struggling in recent weeks with losses to conference foes Norwell and New Haven, the football team was helped with a relatively easy sectional draw (if any draw can be easy in a sectional with Snider). The team played a winless Goshen team and, as they should have, dominated on both sides of the ball. The team coasted to an easy 47-0 victory. Tim Reid (12) had three rushing touchdowns on 44 yards rushing, and Kenneth Perkins (11) had two rushing touchdowns on 137 yards. In their semifinal matchup, the Spartans beat Northrop 23-6, once again led by tough defense, which even recorded an early safety, and a strong rushing attack, with touchdowns scored by Taylor Kinzer (11) and Reid. The Spartans will faced an undefeated Snider team in the sectional championship on Friday night. Snider had been dubbed as a state title contender since early in the season.

Having perhaps the highest team expectations this fall the boys soccer team dominated the competition for the most part this season and worked their way into the top ten in state, but felt that they were getting better and better as the season progressed. However, they had their season end short in their sectional semifinal against Canterbury. The game went into overtime, during which both teams scored one goal and the score remained tied and the game went to a shootout. The first five shooters for each team made three of five goals, sending the shootout into sudden death, where the Cavaliers won on the second shooter.

The girls soccer team fell victim to a similar fate on the same night as the boys. Playing a tough Bishop Luers team in their sectional matchup, the game remained tied 0-0 the whole game and through two overtimes. The girls went into a shootout as well, where the Spartans finally lost in dramatic fashion.

The boys tennis team had a more successful run through the postseason competition than the highly touted soccer teams, however. The Spartans won yet another sectional championship, pushing their streak to 26 years in a row. They also advanced through regionals and won the championship, allowing them to advance to semistate, where the team lost their opening match 3-2 to West Lafayette.

The girls volleyball team, after making a run at a conference championship and coming up short, also failed to advance out of sectionals. The girls won their first match against the hosting South Side team 3-0. However, the girls lost their quarterfinal match against Huntington North 3-0, ending their season.

The boys cross country team's season also came to a close in sectional play. The team finished sixth in sectionals, but only the top five teams advance to regionals. Steve Clark (11) and advanced individually to regionals with a top 15 finish. Clark finished 11th with a time of 16:47.71. At regionals, Clark managed to finish 14th with a time of 17:09.43 and advanced to semi-state the following weekend. However, Clark was unable to finish in the top 15 and advance to state, ending his season.

The girls cross country team was more successful in the postseason than the boys team. They advanced to state competition with fourth place finishes in sectionals and regionals, and a fifth place finish in semi-state. Kelsey Knapp (9) finished ninth in both sectionals and regionals, with times of 15:40.63 and 15:44.54, respectively. The girls finished off their season with an 18th place team finish at state.

The girls golf team also fared quite well in the postseason. They won the a sectional championship by beating second place finisher Norwell by 8 strokes. Ashley Rohlfing (11) shot a team low 83. However, at regionals, the Spartans just missed advancing with a top-three finish, but finished fourth behind third place Warsaw.

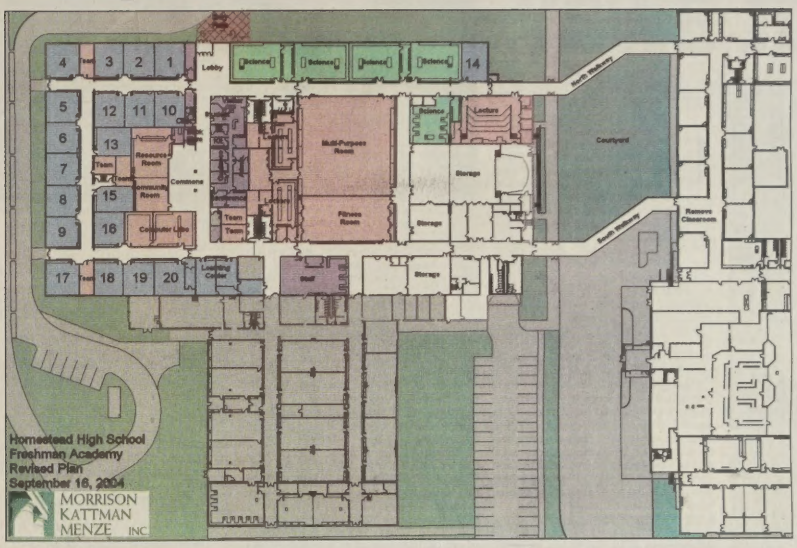
Boys basketball.1B • Semi Formal. 2A • Tennis Invention. 7A • Swimming .4B • Mailbox.4A

the Spartana

Volume 35 • Issue 7 • Homestead High School • 4310 Homestead Road, Fort Wayne, IN 46814 • December 17, 2004

Spartan Basketball: new season

Grant Leiendecker leads a young Spartan squad; girls struggle against Huntington North.



HOMESTEAD UNIVERSITY

Completion of new parking lot prompts construction of ninth grade academy for 2005-06 school year; Homestead joins list of Indiana high schools that elicit feeling of being at a

photos/josh zurawski

» The old location for loading and unloading the busses. Two hallways will connect the two buildings in this area.

Suhasini Bhargava
Co-Editor in Chief

A stepping-stone in the commencement of the renovation and construction of parts of the upcoming ninth grade academy, construction on the new parking lot has been completed.

This newly constructed parking lot will be used by school busses to drop off and pick up students before and after school starting January 3, 2005. The parking area for busses in between Woodside Middle School and the high school will no longer be used after winter break. Two hallways (connecting the high school to the middle school) will be constructed through the parking area starting in January.

Starting in the 2005-06 school year, Woodside will be used as a ninth grade academy by the class of 2009. The academy will physically be an additional wing to the current high school building.

The concept of the ninth grade academy was generated by other high schools around the country and adopted by the administration and guidance department at this school. According to vice principal Jerry Schillinger, the goals of instituting a freshmen academy include decreasing the number of students failing classes, decreasing the number of referrals to the discipline office within the freshmen class, and increasing participation in extra-curricular activities.

"Freshmen fail classes at a higher rate than upperclassmen," Schillinger said during a presentation about the freshmen academy on October 7, in the community room. "Overall, they also have the most discipline referrals."

The steering committee for the freshmen academy, which includes Schillinger, guidance counselor Sally Tinkel, and leaders of sub committees, has worked on the goals and functions of the freshmen academy in Southwest Allen Country Schools. The committee has also visited other academies to further understand the concept.

This academy will follow a freshmen house structure; approximately 550 freshmen will be divided into five houses, each house comprising 100-110 students. All students in one particular house will have the same core subject teachers—the core classes include math, English, and science.

The steering committee is contemplating whether to offer a mandatory Student Resource Time (SRT), which would be a seminar period for students to seek help with homework, work on designated tasks, and engage in guidance-related activities.

Each house will be assigned a guidance counselor, and the rooms of the core teachers of each house will be located close to each other.

The freshmen academy will follow the same bell schedule as the remainder of the high school, and freshmen will have the same opportunities for electives as freshmen in previous years have had.

"Our present differentiated curriculum structure will be offered," Schillinger said. "We will have block, honors, college prep, and standard courses."

Physical Education will be offered at the grade 10-12 building. In order to allow freshmen to travel from the academy to the 10-12 building, time will be added to the passing period.

The typical day for next year's freshmen will begin at the freshmen academy. Students can be dropped off at the freshmen academy instead of at the 10-12 building. Exceptions include freshmen students involved in Class Royale and Orchestra. These students will have to begin their day at the 10-12 building instead of the freshmen academy. Typically, freshmen will have anywhere from four to six classes at the freshmen academy, and the remainder of their days will be spent at the 10-12 building. All students will eat lunch in the main building's cafeteria.

Dodd Kattman has been hired to complete construction and renovation of the freshmen academy. The cost for the freshmen academy is being paid for by a grant received by Southwest Allen Country Schools.

The first step in the construction process (the relocation of the bus drop-off area) has now been completed. Next, the contractors will order materials, attain approvals, and begin renovation at Woodside at the conclusion of the school year.

"We want to provide a lot of space for group things," Kattman said. "The gym [at Woodside] will be for special programs and the [current] band room will be a lecture hall."

Indeed, students can expect to find changes after winter break in regards to the new parking lot and construction of the academy.

» The newly constructed parking lot will be the home of student drop offs, for both high school and middle school students, after winter break.

First in district, seventh in state

We The People, the hands on government class, represents the Third Congressional District at the state competition in Indy

Laura Summers
Writer

On Thursday, November 18, Keith Potter's AP Government: We the People class competed in the Third Congressional district competition. This challenging contest took place at a local church, The Chapel.

The 'We the People' competitions focus on the details of the early United States governing system, mainly the Bill of Rights and the Constitution.

Before this contest, the classes prepared an essay concerning their specific topic. Once arriving at the event, they present their composition to the panel of judges. The essay topics are opinionated questions directed towards the students.

In this Third Congressional district competition, the different classes competing were broken up into six different units each. The judges then asked three questions to the students from each class about each unit. The classes are informed, four months in advance, of the questions that will be asked at the competition.

Several students have been participating in We the People since 8th grade.

In the beginning, during the first nine weeks of school, the class prepared for these competitions by covering the material found in the text. They had since then been preparing for this difficult preliminary event. The We the People class counts as the students' government credit.

The 'We the People' contestants study the Bill of Rights and the Constitution with great effort, in hopes of taking their class to the state finals competition. These events are taken quite seriously, because each student works to do his best to advance his group to the next round of competition.

On the 18th, Potter's class took a first place finish at the Third Congressional district competition. They then advanced onto the state competition, which was held on December 9th, at the IUPUI campus in Indianapolis.

The students involved in We the People missed school that day because the competition was an all day event. The group placed seventh at the event.

"The class did an excellent job. The state of Indiana is one of the most competitive [We the People competitions] in the nation," Potter said.

The class' hard work definitely paid off because they accomplished their goal of making it to state.

The year after

photo/zach hetrick

Following a second place finish at last year's state competition, this year's swim team remains strong with a 4-0 start.

see 4B for the complete story

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Surplus

Catch Issue 4 of *Surplus* with Issue 8 of *the Spartana*. The features insert will include movie, music, and food reviews in addition to a guide to the most desired clubs that have a following and a willing supervisor, but have not been established.

Dancin' the night away

photo kara wall

Katie Schmidt (11) and Derek Hackl (11) share an intimate moment during the Semi Formal dance.

Sarah Kennedy
Associate Sports Editor

Dresses, suits, dinner, flowers, after-party and dancing the night away composed the semiformal dance that both underclassmen and upperclassmen attended. The semiformal was held on Saturday, December 4th from 7:45 to 12:00 P.M. at the Memorial Coliseum.

"Students like to have dances away from Homestead High school, but some of the places that we really wanted, like the Scottish Right, were already booked," Student Government executive board president Audri Nicholson (12) said.

The senior class president is the chair on the dance committee, and other members of student government in the senior class help make semiformal a reality.

Many students took pictures of themselves and their friends at home before they left for the dance, but then were also spotted with cameras in hand as they searched out familiar faces in the crowd to add to their photo album. Shoes and purses were lined along the wall and underneath the tables as the girls got into party mode and left their uncomfortable shoes behind.

Some dancers attended dinner before the dance as a common tradition that has gone on for years. Restaurants that students attended include Biaggi's, Red Star Tavern, Don Pablo's, The Oyster Bar, Eddie Merlot's, and Logan's Steakhouse. While many diners went out to eat, others chose to stay in with friends for a homemade meal, or even pizza for a quick energy boost before the dance.

The music that was played at the dance was a mix of rap, pop, techno, rock and country. A D.J. was present to answer to requests made by students, and to play a variety of dance music all night long. Instead of the usual student-D.J.s that play for the school's semi-formals, a professional D.J. was hired for the event.

photo kara wall

Tony Pastre (10), Amanda Operschall (10) and Brie Feddler converse during the annual Semi Formal held on December 4.

"The administration wanted to pick one D.J. that they were secure with, so we'll be using 'Heartbreakers' for most dances now," Nicholson said.

Water and refreshments were available near the coat check for re-hydrating and taking care of any hungry students. Bathrooms were available with mirrors for quick touch-ups of makeup or hair.

The cost of the dance was $18.00 for a single, and $34.00 for a couple. The tickets were available during all lunch mods for two weeks prior to the event, or at the door as students entered the dance.

"A lot of the money for the dance comes from the ticket sales at Prom and class fees (about $2.00 from each member of the class), and then the ticket money made from semiformal goes into graduation," Nicholson said.

The theme was thought up as the seniors looked through catalogs for ideas. Even though the seniors would have liked to employ a more creative theme, many were occupied with planning Homecoming week, Adopt-a-Family, and other Student Government projects. The theme of the dance this year was 'Come Away With Me' and was sported on the tickets for the dance.

After the dance was over, students either went home, or changed clothes and found something else to do to add to a night of fun. Some students hung out with friends, while others went to after-parties or out to eat. A popular hang-out spot after the dance was Steak and Shake or McDonald's. Many people that skipped the dance to do something else met up with dance-attendees and were still able to share in the festivities.

"I think the dance went really well," Nicholson said. "The turnout was good, and I liked the decorations. We'll just have to adjust to the new D.J. and students will have to adjust to bringing their IDs for next year and Prom."

Student Government looks over committee reports of what they liked about the dance and what they did not like. That way, next year the dance can be even better than this year, and dances in the future will continue to improve.

"In past years there have usually been about 700 to 800 students at semiformal overall," Nicholson said. "This year, we sold out all of our tickets and had over 1,000 people at the dance."

After all the shopping, planning, buying and arranging, the dance was finally a full-night event. All the glitz, glamor, and dancing lessons made the semiformal a good time for students and staff alike.

Hospitality Club participates in dinner series, plans winter events

Alicia Batchelder
Writer

Hospitality Club is a group of students that meet together, to discuss and cultivate interests in hotels, tourism, the culinary arts, and restaurant management. The club is sponsored by local university Indiana University Purdue University Fort Wayne (IPFW).

"We are sponsored by IPFW," Julia Poorman (11) said. "They have dinners that we go to and help out."

Students from IPFW that are taking a hospitality course or are in their Hospitality Club work together with the club. Each IPFW student that is in a hospitality course must have a dinner that will be graded on. They then come to the Hospitality Club, who will help with any tasks that are asked, which can be anything from getting table settings together to making and serving the food.

"The different places we serve or pick up at are interesting," Jamie Stiffler (10) said. "We try to go early and make some of the food. The IPFW Hospitality Club welcomes our help."

The Hospitality Club has become so involved and interested in the ideas that are presented through these dinners that they have decided to hold their own dinner this year and will be planning a club trip to have a tour to DeBrands in January.

> "I love to be involved, and I am looking at a career in the hospitality industry."
> Julia Poorman (11)

"We are starting to do more things, including our very own dinner and a trip to DeBrands," Poorman said.

Each year, the club tries to find a way to raise money for the school, often serving a meal and holding a silent auction for donated items. The dinners that are held at the school, including the December 3rd chili supper, are a fundraiser for both the club and for the school.

"We have participated in selling breakfast before school and put on a chili supper before a basketball game," Alex Desch (11) said.

Not only does the club help by bringing forth fundraisers and finding other money for the school, but the members make sure to go out into the community to help as well.

"We participate in the community through Children's Hope Hospitality House and are planning to do a canned food drive in the spring," Desch said.

Several of the club members hope to do future work in culinary arts, and having hands-on contact with food service and helping other people seems to be a helpful idea. The club seems to attract many student cooks and several students that are interested in hospitality as a college major or career choice further down the line in their lives.

"I love to be involved, and I am looking at a career in the hospitality industry," Poorman said.

The Hospitality Club seems to have brought a lot to the school and makes a continuous effort to bring more to it. The Hospitality Club receives as much as it gives, both on a level of the entire club or personally for each member.

National Honor Society organizes coffee house, Espresso Gallery caters

Kasey Butcher
Writer

After the success that met the National Honor Society (NHS)'s Spring Coffee House during Fine Arts Week last school year, the group hosted a Fall Coffee House before and after the fall play.

"[The executive board] thought since the spring one was really good, more people would want to do it so we decided to do two so that more people could be involved each year," board member Sushma Jonna (12) said.

The coffee house featured student bands Elephants in Mud (formerly the Dub Soldiers) and Read-Icculus (formerly the Graffenbergs) along with an acoustic set performed by Chris Miller (11). The members of Elephants in Mud include Jared Andrews (12) and Tom Robertson (12). Read-Icculus features John Blevins (12), Trent Gard (12), Brooks Frederickson (12), Zak Labas (10) and John Swain (10). Elephants in Mud played from 7:00 until the fall play started. After the break, Chris Miller got the festivities started and Read-Icculus finished the night with an hour long jazz set. This was the band's first public gig after adjusting its line-up.

Coffee and hot chocolate, including specialty brews such as Pumkin Spice, were provided by Espresso Gallery and desserts were prepared by the Hospitality Club. The Parent Club helped to finance the event.

"The Hospitality Club was nice enough to make the brownies for us and we're going to share the profits with them," Jonna said.

The Fall Coffee House is one way for National Honor Society members to earn credit for the service project required for membership during the 2004-2005 school year. Several committees worked together to host the event. The coffee committee worked to form a liaison with Espresso Gallery and the Hospitality Club, set a menu, and work the refreshment table. The music committee organized and recruited musical groups to play at the coffee house. This committee also helped with set-up of tables and chairs, and the stage. The decorations committee designed and created the decorations which included leaves, balloons, and the popular return of table clothes that attendees could draw on with crayons.

"This year we split it up into a lot of different committees so that more people could be involved and it was kind of a bigger project than one group could handle," Jonna said.

The Fall Coffee House was the forerunner to another Spring Coffee House to be hosted during Fine Arts Week next spring.

"I think the Fall Coffee House went pretty well, but it could have been better," Jonna said. "Hopefully the spring one will be better because there won't be a break in the middle and people will come for the art."

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Global Briefs

— Ukrainian Election —

Ukraine's Supreme Court has nullified the results of the country's disrupted presidential election. The court has called for a repeat runoff in two weeks. Opposition leader, Viktor Yushchenko claimed that widespread fraud robbed him of victory in the November 21 vote.

— The Cabinet —

With the resignation of Homeland Security advisor Tom Ridge (PA), President Bush has nominated Bernard Kerik. Kerik led the NYPD during the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001. Kerik's nomination has bipartisan support. In the latest Cabinet shake-up, Health and Human Services Secretary Tommy Tompson also sent in his resignation. No successor has yet been announced. The former Wisconsin Governor is the eighth Cabinet member to resign since Bush was re-elected.

— Davis Cup —

Team USA played Spain for the Davis Cup title in Seville, Spain. This season-ending event ended in a close tie between the two nations. Over the weekend, Andy Roddick (2), Mardy Fish (20), Bob and Mike Bryan (doubles), and Vince Spadea (alternate) faced the Spanish team of Juan Carlos Ferro, Rapheal Nadal, Tommy Roberado, and Carlos Moya. The Spaniards beat the United States 3-2. Home team advantage, and the slow clay courts were factors that helped Spain achieve their victory.

— The Box Office —

Nicholas Cage logged a third weekend atop the North American box office Sunday with his action-adventure "National Treasure," but overall ticket sales slid as movies competed for attention with the shopping in the post-Thanksgiving holiday period. One of the hardest hit films was director Oliver Stone's "Alexander," which earned an estimated $4.7 million in the three days beginning Friday, losing about two-thirds of its opening-weekend tally as it dropped one place at number 7.

— Celebrity Awards —

Music legend Elton John, opera diva Joan Sutherland, and conductor John Williams, along with actors Warren Betty, Ossie Davis, and Ruby Dee, were honored Sunday, December 5, 2004 at The Kennedy Center Honors. The six were saluted for their lifetime contributions to American culture through the performing arts. First Lady Laura Bush also hosted the recipients at the White House.

– Iraqi Prisoner Abuse —

The United States Navy is looking into whether photographs on the Internet, which show Navy SEALs posing with Iraqi prisoners, give any evidence of prisoner abuse. About 200 photos were posted on a Web site that now cannot be accessed. A senior Navy official said only a few of the pictures seem suspicion, and none can be determined to clearly show abuse without knowing the context.

— NBA Brawl —

At the Indiana Pacers versus the Detroit Pistons game, there was a vicious brawl that ended the game 47 seconds early. The fight began when Ron Artest fouled Ben Wallace while Wallace was going for a lay up. Wallace retaliated, causing an infuriated Artest to lay down on the scorers table. A Detroit fan then threw a cup of beer on Artest. Artest jumped up and charged into the stands, while other players followed in his defense. After several minutes of fighting with the fans, the teams left while many objects were being thrown upon them. Artest was then suspended for the rest of the NBA season. Jermain O'Neal was suspended for 25 games, Stephen Jackson was suspended for 30 games, and Ben Wallace was suspended for six games.

— Golfer of the Year —

On Monday, December 6, 2004 Vijay Singh was awarded the Professional Golf Association (PGA) Tour Player of the Year title for 2004. This ended Tiger Wood's five year stretch of the title from 1999 to 2003. Singh had nine victories during the season and also became the first player to earn over $10 million in one season. No one else had won more than three events, and Singh nearly doubled his earnings in comparison to Ernie Els.

briefspuja parikh, joe salisbury, taylor pyle

Wishing for a winter wonderland

Students, staff members look forward to long awaited holiday break plans

Austin Hetrick
Writer

The season has arrived, the carols are being dusted off, decorations set, lights tested and trees dressed once more for the long final stretch to the winter holiday. Students look to enjoy this holiday season as they have done since their first, in two full weeks of freedom with family and friends. For now, however, in the halls one word describes the feelings of all 2,000 students: anticipation.

Winter Solstice, Christmas, Hanukkah, and Ramadan all are celebrated in December and January. Of course in Indiana most of these holidays are not celebrated equally, but each is important throughout the nation and the world.

Over winter break students will be traveling to a variety of locales this season. Many are going on cruises, road trips, or cross-country flights, while others will stay home and enjoy the comforts of a classic holiday.

"I'm going back to Boston for Christmas with my family this year, and on New Year's day I'll be flying back," Kayla Mackey (10) said. "My family and I go there every year. We'll fly out of Fort Wayne after we get out of school."

Many students, like Mackey, will be visiting family to celebrate the holidays, by opening presents and eating dinner together.

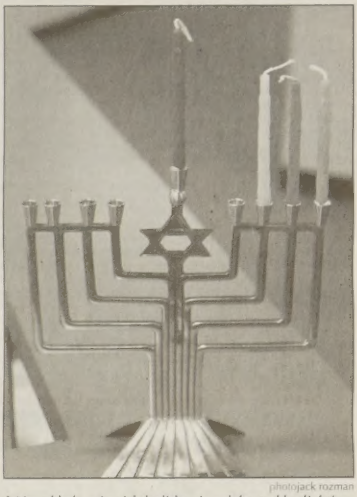
The holidays are an opportunity for most students to kick back and forget their worries-however a few classes have assigned projects right through the holidays. Some Honors Trigonometry classes will be working on a statistics project due a few days after their return. The Honors Physics classes have a lab due after break. The Advanced Placement (AP) Literature/Composition classes have a research paper to write over break. Extra-curricular activities are also holding some groups down during the season. Although most groups do not practice during the two-week period, the swim team and others will be following a grueling schedule right through the break.

"I'm going nowhere for Christmas this year," Heather Moore, (10) a member of the swim team said. "You can find me in a very cold pool everyday except for Christmas and one Sunday. [Each member] of the team will be doing 80,000 yards of swimming in one week."

Despite how the season is celebrated, nearly every student appreciates the break from the monotony of school life. Although Christmas, a traditional Roman Catholic holiday, is the dominant holiday in this area, some of the lesser-known celebrations of this time of year are observed in this area.

Canadians-Americans will be celebrating Boxing day (the equivalent of President's Day in the United States).

These celebrations are just a few of the several which will be held this season in honor of holidays other than Christmas. But soon students will have, at last, reached the last day of school before the winter break, and although the road was rocky with teachers attempting to squeeze in exams and homework, in a matter of moments, students will once again find themselves free; for a while at least.



photojack rozman

» Hanukkah, a Jewish holiday, is celebrated by lighting a candle for each of the eight days on Hanukkah.

photoszach hetrick

» Class Royale, the advanced mixed choir, sang various holiday-themed music at the winter concert.

«Far left: Jeff Walker (10) played his saxophone. Few jazz band students were selected to play at the winter concert. Left: Ryan Bertl (11) and Abhi Vemula (11) are playing their violins as part of the orchestra. The orchestra meets during first period.

Orchestra, jazz band, choirs perform in winter concert

Hunter Hall
Writer

On Thursday, December 9, the music department held its annual winter concert. The concert included groups such as choir, jazz band, and orchestra. Because the admission was free, students, teachers, parents, and members of the community were invited to attend.

The choirs have been practicing all sorts of holiday-themed music in the past few weeks. Some of the titles included: 'Gloria', 'Hallelujah', 'We Wish You a Merry Christmas', and others. They began preparing in early November for the performance on December 9. In the week prior to the performance, the winter concert, Class Royale, the advanced choir, traveled to various community shows and performed their holiday music.

"I'm excited to perform our music and think that our performance on Thursday and I think it will go very well," Jenna Hullinger (10), a member of the orchestra said before the concert on the ninth.

The orchestra, another group that performed at the concert, joined in with the choirs in their rendition of the hymn 'Hallelujah'. The Symphonic Orchestra is a combination of all types of stringed instruments players as well as woodwinds and bass. Most of them are very skilled musicians and have played their instruments for many years. Recently, two orchestra students were recognized with the honor of qualifying for the Indiana All State Orchestra.

"I'm excited about going to All-State Orchestra," Hannah Corral (10) said. "It was a great accomplishment for me after I was unable to enter last year."

Her accomplishment was great in that she was selected from a group of people, along with another orchestra student who were chosen because of their exceptional skills. They had to play excerpts from songs, solos, and scales to win.

One reason for the school's high achievement in orchestra is due to the teaching of Brad Wadkins. Wadkins has been teaching at this school for a period of 12 years and some of the classes he teaches include: Symphonic Orchestra, Homestead Spartan Alliance Marching Band, Concert Band, Pep Band, Pit Orchestra, and Beginning Orchestra. With such a qualified teacher, it is no surprise that members of the orchestra are successful.

"It is very fun to play with the choir; I enjoy helping out in the concert," Corral (10) said.

"I have been playing strings for many years and I am excited for the concert on Thursday," Amy Heath (10) said about the orchestra.

As accustomed, the concert was held in the main auditorium and was free of charge for the audience and lasted about an hour. The concert began at seven o'clock and lasted until around eight o'clock, with the three groups integrated performances many high school students attended.

The jazz band opened the show. The band is made up of several select band students who had chosen to be involved in the program. The orchestra and choir also performed with the band.

The show went relatively well according to most musicians at the concert. There was a large turnout and parents continue to look forward to the upcoming concerts.

Winter Scenes show drama students' talent

Austin Hetrick
Writer

On December 1, the drama classes held their Winter Scenes in the auditorium. The night featured all kinds of acting; from comedy to drama.

For the past several weeks the theater classes took a break from their regular schedule of acting exercises and worked exclusively on their individual scenes. Each drama student was assigned a scene from plays that involved multiple actors. Together with his group members, the actors learned lines, conducted blocking and finally performed their scene for an audience.

"I performed a "competition piece," Andy Wirtner (11) said. "A competition piece is an one act play divided between groups of actors from the advanced theater arts classes."

All of the theater arts classes performed scenes on Wednesday, with an emphasis on "comedy over drama; since the audience reacts better to it," according to Ed Koczergo, director and theater arts teacher.

Some students were pressed to make the show; those in Class Royale, returned from a community show at the Fort Wayne Country Club in time for their scenes.

Students were costumed and had props provided by the department, with help by assistant director Beth Rademaker.

The winter scenes were the culmination of a semester of class-time in all four periods of drama. Other activities for the drama classes include a trip to Rave Motion Pictures to see a film. It helped students understand professional acting.

Extra-curricular theater continues soon with the winter play "Spoon River Anthologies" written by Edgar Lee Masters. The play will feature eight actors, two singers and several instrumentalists. The winter play is usually performed in a less formal set, often with new faces to the stage.

While the drama classes are separate from the plays themselves, many of those taking drama tried out for the play. Auditions were held on Monday, December 6 in the auditorium (see page 7A for cast list).

As some drama students look forward to the winter play and even the musical in the spring, others will relish in the accomplishments of their scenes and look forward to next semesters.

Spirit lost: materialism replaces meaning of holidays

Charitable causes should outweigh importance of consumerism during Christmas

Javed Sayed
Opinions Editor

America is a country of consumers and there is no counterargument to that assertion. Now days, however, I feel with increasing conviction that this consumerism might be going too far. As Christmas approaches, America's lust for material items increases. Children begin writing letters to Santa telling him all that they want, and if they are good little boys and girls they will get all that they want. The question that arises is the following one: Should children receive all that they ask for in letters to Santa?

Don't get me wrong. I think Christmas is a wonderful holiday, and I don't see anything wrong with giving other people presents. However, many times I get the feeling that Americans, myself included, have become much too concerned with what they have or rather what they should get. After the holidays, many are left thin in the wallet; after all, buying all these gifts for each other does take money. It would be incorrect to say that Christmas is the only time when an over-indulgence in materials goods can be seen. On the contrary, this problem plagues many throughout the entire year.

Perhaps the root of the problem lies with the corporations, who push their own agenda to make many think that one cannot be happy without material items. I do not put much blame on individuals because most of us have grown up in this materialistic culture. I often times find myself wanting and asking my parents for many items, which I have little, if any, use for. Maybe if Americans were more exposed to the hardships that the rest of the world faces we would all see just how lucky we are to live in this country, and perhaps to some extent we would then realize that we don't need to have all these presents and material goods to be happy. Around this time of the year I am often asked if I celebrate Christmas. After I answer 'no,' many people look at me in disbelief, and question my answer. I've even asked that question to myself before. Why can't I get presents for Christmas? Then after thinking about this for a few minutes, it dawns on me; I'm already so much luckier than millions of other children around the world, and I have no need for anything else. Contemporary Christmas has become a celebration of consumerism and materialism instead of generosity and selflessness.

> This view that Christmas is about giving and receiving presents epitomizes what this holiday season has become to much of the population.

Of course Christmas is also a time for many generous acts. In fact, it is in this very time of giving that most charitable organizations collect the most donations. Everyday I can see my fellow classmates giving donations to organizations that help children in underdeveloped countries, or to help fund research on diseases such as cancer. However, this does not take away from the heart of the matter: During this same holiday season many Americans and, in fact, many people around the world become more materialistic than at any other time. Though people are donating to organizations, on the flip side, they are also asking for more and more in the form of gifts and presents.

Most of what I hear around Christmas time revolves solely around what students are hoping to get from Christmas. In fact I know of many other non-Christians who "celebrate" this holiday as well. Unfortunately what they mean by "celebrating" is the giving and receiving presents. Basically this view that Christmas is about giving and receiving presents epitomizes what this holiday season has become to much of the population.

Though the "spirit of giving" should be the true idea behind Christmas, the giving spirit seems to have faded and be replaced by materialism.

Javed Sayed is a junior and works as the Opinions Editor for the Spartana. *The views and opinions expressed in this editorial do not necessarily represent those of* the Spartana *or of its staff.*

THIS HOLIDAY SEASON WE NEED TO SPREAD PEACE, JOY, LOVE, AND HAPPINESS!
WHERE DO YOU BUY THAT?
WHAT THE HOLIDAYS ARE ALL ABOUT...
Evan Childers

cartoonevan childers

Quick Facts

- *The average amount spent during the holiday season is $730*
- *About 93 % of Americans celebrate some holiday in December*
- *Almost 15 % of adults are still shopping for presents after 6:00 p.m. on Christmas Eve*
- *The UPS employs an extra 100,000 workers during the holiday season in order to deliver packages on time*

Public versus private colleges: the differences between the two

Neil Shah
Writer

Often the most important choice that upperclassmen are forced to make is a very difficult one. Major factors must be considered in order to make a good decision. Many of these factors, however, are consistent with one: whether the school is public or private. Public schools offer a different environment than private schools, but private schools typically offer some opportunities unavailable to students of public schools.

The major difference between these two types of schools is size in terms of students. For the most part, public schools are much larger than private schools. Size is the deciding factor for many different aspects of the schools. For instance, because of its large size, a public school often has more diversity of opinion and race than a private school. Students can find people that are just like them at a public school and often have no trouble making friends, while at private schools it may be more difficult for a student to find others that he can relate to because of the smaller amount of people. The small size of private schools, however, has benefits worth mentioning. Private school students often mention that the closeness they feel on their campuses does not exist at public schools. Also, a major advantage of the small size is the faculty-student ratio. Sometimes, at private schools, classes will comprise less than ten students, allowing the professor to work closely and help his students. At public schools, on the other hand, classes sometimes comprise more than 200 students and the professor lectures to an entire crowd, of which he might be familiar with only five students.

Student preference is one of two deciding factors when choosing between a public or private university. If a senior in high school would rather have close interaction with his professors and more personal environment, then he would probably prefer a private school; likewise, if a student enjoys an impersonal environment that comes with a large amount of people, like a big city, then he would most likely prefer a public school. The second major factor is how much the student or his family is willing to pay for the school, which is where much of the complication arises.

On average, private schools cost more than public schools. The government funds public universities, thus they can charge much lower prices than private schools, which must pay for everything on their own. Often times, students are forced to sacrifice preference because even though they prefer the private school, it costs too much to attend. Private schools are keenly aware of this, however, and offer many more scholarships than public schools in order to attract students it feels would give their school a good name. The scholarships aim to keep students that would come if the price were lower interested in considering the school because they drop the price specifically for these students. Furthermore, sometimes these scholarships make the price of a public institution more than the price of the private one, making them even more attractive.

Special cases arise with the best colleges in the nation: the vast majority of top ranked colleges are private. Most of these schools are members of the Ivy League, which are all old, private institutions. The dilemma, therefore, is whether a top-notch education is worth $160,000 (a ballpark estimate of the price to attend an Ivy League school, since annual fees are around $40,000). Many talented students are forced to turn these schools down simply because of their prices. However, these schools often are generous in their financial aid programs since they have huge endowments and can afford to give their students a break in tuition. Another argument many support is that undergraduate education does not matter enough to justify that expense, so going to a state school is really not detrimental.

The differences between public and private universities are significant. Price and environment are the two foremost differences that must be considered when applying to college and deciding which one to attend.

Neil Shah is a senior and works as a writer for the Spartana. *The views and opinions expressed in this editorial do not necessarily represent those of* the Spartana *or of its staff.*

Public, private colleges: the facts

- *The average annual tuition of four year public institutions is $4,694*
- *The average annual tuition of four year private institutions is $19,710*
- *Almost half of students who enroll in college receive financial aid*
- *Students attending four year private institutions receive on average $7,300 in grant aid*
- *Students attending four year public institutions receive on average $2,400 in grant aid*

courtesyofwww.collegeboard.com

the Mailbox

Advocates of gay rights request respect, wish to eliminate stereotypes

"You see I'm just like you. I have a boyfriend and a lot of friends. I'm a girl in your classes sitting next to you with average grades wearing skirts. My hair color changes a lot. I have two dogs and a cat."

"I am a 15-year-old, a freshman at Homestead High School. I come here almost every day, and enjoy hanging out with my friends. I like to listen to music, and sometimes sing along. In many ways, I am just like you."

"Sunrise, sunset. Wake up late. Sit around diners, eating terrible food for the sake of routine. Laugh at myself, laugh more at others. Just like you, there's more to me than I let on to strangers."

"I'm a senior who likes hanging with my friends and listening to music. I have a car, and it needs a new transmission. I delight in being a slacker. I guess I'm pretty average…."

"I'm 16 years old, but I cannot drive because I failed my driving test. I don't play sports. Though I come to school playing sick. My parents don't let me. I'm like most students here."

"I enjoy playing soccer and tennis, hanging out with my friends, driving around, and playing games on the Internet. Like most teens, I listen to a variety of music and love it best loud. I've gotten in trouble with the law for speeding."

"I am a 17-year-old female senior. I like hanging out with my friends and boyfriend on the weekends. I love listening to rock music, but sometimes country and rap too. I love singing. In some classes I struggle and need help. I don't like school but still I come so I can go to college."

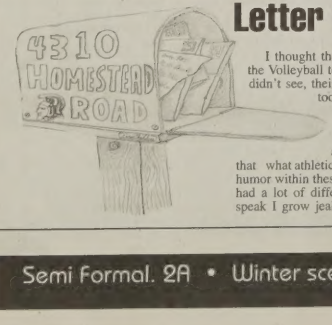
> We never chose this lifestyle; we certainly don't expect you to. After all, why would anyone choose the homosexual lifestyle, facing discrimination and persecution?

These are some of my friends. All the same, all different. As I truck through my fourth year at Homestead High School, I realize that all of us are really the same. I, personally, drive a used car with mardi gras beads hanging from my rearview mirror. Most days, I straggle into school in blue jeans and a sweatshirt and go home each night to my boyfriend. Knowing just that about me, you would never be able to pick me out from the 430-some other seniors traipsing through the halls day after day.

By now, I'm sure you're curious as to what the point is. You may even be trying to pick us out in the halls. Can't tell, can you? So what if I told you we were all gay or bisexual? Still can't tell who we are, can you? After all, none of the boys are flamboyant or flippant. In fact, some of the boys we know that act that way are as straight as most of your readers. None of the girls wear flannel or have their heads buzzed. All the gay or lesbian stereotypes you can think of? Throw them out. They don't fit a single one of us, and the people that they do fit are probably just another "normal" person like you and I.

Don't let any of this make you feel paranoid. It's not contagious. We have no intentions in trying to "turn you" gay. After all, we never chose this lifestyle; we certainly don't expect you to. We of all people know, why would anyone choose the homosexual lifestyle, facing discrimination and persecution? But this is what we are; born this way and not lying to ourselves anymore. Did you wake up one morning and say; "I think I want to be straight today?" We're just like you in every other way. Your stereotypes hurt us. We're just normal people. Please….treat us that way.

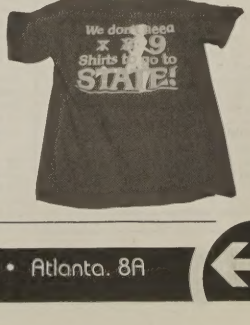
This letter was written by a group of students working toward eliminating stereotypes associated with gay and lesbian individuals. The authors of the piece wish to remain anonymous. The letter was submitted to the Spartana *by guidance counselor Brian Dobias via email. The views and opinions expressed in this letter do not necessarily reflect those of* the Spartana *or of its staff.*



Letter to the Editor

I thought the Girls Cross Country attack on the Volleyball team was a bit out of line. If you didn't see, their shirts read, "We wear spandex too...but we don't need 9 shirts to go to state." My first question is why belittle a program of the same school? It doesn't exactly promote school spirit; isn't that what athletic shirts are for? Furthermore, the humor within these shirts is beyond me. Volleyball had a lot of different shirts made, okay? As we speak I grow jealous just thinking about those 9 beautiful shirts I don't have. The sheer randomness of Volleyball shirts like "Fatty Lama," despite the spelling error, easily outdo the Cross Country shirts as far as humor goes. Girls Cross Country---you have poor spirit, and I give you an F for F-fort.

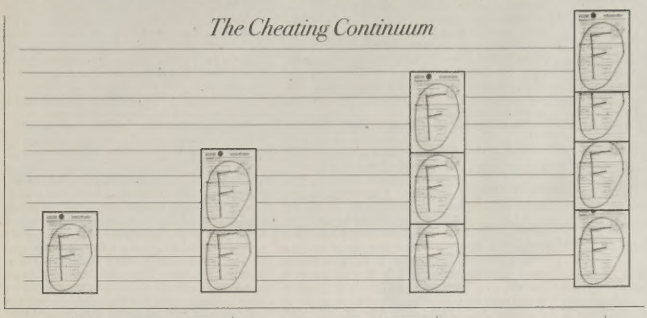
- Don Ueber (12)



>> The t-shirt created by the girls cross country team was in part meant to humorously depict the volleyball team.

Semi Formal. 2A • Winter scenes. 3A • Mailbox. 4A • Tennis Invention. 7A • Atlanta. 8A
you are here ▲

Ethical dilemma: which, if any, are acceptable forms of cheating?



Level 1: Copying some answers, copying entire assignments

Level 2: Asking for answers on quiz or test prior to taking exam

Level 3: Copying answers during the test

Level 4: Plagiarism

December 17, 2004
Period 3

Definitions

plagiarise
v : take without referencing from someone else's writing or speech; of intellectual property

cheat
v. cheat·ed, cheat·ing, cheats
1. To deceive by trickery; swindle
2. To deprive by trickery; defraud
3. To mislead; fool

deception
n. : The use of deceit.
2. The fact or state of being deceived.
3. A ruse; a trick.

copy
v. cop·ied, cop·y·ing, cop·ies
1. To make a reproduction or copy of.
2. To follow as a model or pattern; imitate

source:www.dictionary.com

Suhasini Bhargava
Co-Editor-in-Chief

Cheating is analogous to drug usage: copying homework is a gateway method of cheating that leads to copying on tests and quizzes. In the Southwest Allen County school district, students are so motivated by success and have ambition so powerful that many resort to questionable methods in order to accomplish their goals. Sheer laziness, pushy parents, and ambition can be blamed for the cheating epidemic that has hit the school. Because cheating has become ubiquitous at school, the lines between blatant "cheating" and "extra help" have blurred.

Cheating of all types (copying homework, trading answers, entering answers into graphing calculators, and asking students about the test prior to taking it) is unacceptable. I hold the student body to a high standard because overall, the school's population comprises bright individuals who have the potential to accomplish feats without cheating.

The sense of ambition that students share should accompany a strong moral code. Students should not consider copying each other's homework an acceptable action. In fact, most students fail to realize that copying homework from another student is a form of cheating. For many students, asking their peers (who take the test in an earlier period) specific questions and answers about the test is daily routine.

If students and teachers tolerate or ignore copied homework and stored answers in graphing calculators today, more severe forms of cheating may become acceptable in the future.

Although students may never be punished for their actions, their consciences should be strong enough to prevent them from traveling the easier path. Additionally, students should not justify cheating by claiming that all students cheat once in a while, and that accomplishing goals without a minimal amount of cheating is impossible.

Even on the smallest scale, cheating is wrong, and it should be viewed as a severe wrongdoing by students and teachers alike.

Josh Zurawski
Co-Editor-in-Chief

Cheating is a major problem in high schools across the country; the reason being no definite line can be drawn. Some consider copying homework the beginning of cheating, while others maintain that cheating begins with unfair advantages on tests.

Every student at our school has participated in copying homework. Students who collaborate on homework that is assigned individually cheat. Students who copy answers on a worksheet cheat. Students who copy answers on a lab report cheat. How can you call every student a cheater?

On the other side of the coin, a much smaller percentage of students have cheated on tests. Stealing a copy of the test, telling other students answers, copying answers during a test, and sneaking information into a test are common cheating methods.

Any teacher who knows of a student cheating on a test will lay down some sort of punishment, usually a zero. But does a kid deserve a zero for collaborating with another student on a worksheet? Does a high school student who has six other classes, a job, after school activities, and a personal life to deal with deserve a zero for copying answers once in a while on a busy-work assignment?

Cheating on a test or quiz is much worse than copying homework; the homework prepares the student for the test that tests their knowledge. If a kid can copy homework and do well on a test without cheating, then the student didn't really need to do the homework.

It is impossible to draw the ethical line on cheating. Each student has the choice to cheat, and each situation is different. Students who cheat on tests deserve zeroes--how else could teachers test one's knowledge? As for homework copying--knowledge catches up with the students who cheat too much. In the end, the repeat offender will struggle.

A last note: Plagiarism is the most outrageous action any student could take. I cannot fathom why anyone would even consider it.

Christy Landrigan
Surplus Editor

The world of concrete rights and wrongs that older generations know no longer exists; slowly, those ossified blocks of definitive morality are becoming more suggestive of cubes of murky Jell-O, leaving our age group to stand on increasingly soft moral ground. This dilemma where students stand on unsure footing is increasingly becoming a major problem because most students will say that cheating is wrong in all forms while having a cloudy understanding of what exactly cheating is. This confusion is only encouraged by some teachers' classroom procedures.

Since elementary school, students have been told that the "real world" does not accept late work. After working this summer on a magazine staff, I have witnessed that this mantra is untrue. Deadlines exists, and late work is punished, but never will an employer fail to give credit for work accomplished, regardless of if that work is late. Hence, the common punishment of zeros for late homework is flawed. While responsibility and reliability are essential traits for success in the real world, they should not be taught based on a false premise. Furthermore, this flawed philosophy encourages many, if not most, students to cheat.

Although I do emphatically believe that cheating is wrong, I also feel that many teachers are unrealistic in their punishment of cheaters, especially due to the fact that cheating is a daily occurrence in classrooms. While some students cheat simply because they do not want to do the work, others seem to feel that there is no other alternative with pressures from parents, teachers, and society to be high achievers. Teachers can help to alleviate the pressures a student might feel to cheat by revealing deadlines well in advance with constant reminders of the due date and progress check-points until the final assignment is due.

Because of unrealistic views of reality, cheating is encouraged in classrooms when it could be discouraged by teachers' classroom procedures.

Matt Anderson
Sports Editor

Cheating should always be considered wrong, period. However, I guess there are some cases in which cheating is better than others.

Yet society has grown to accept it or look past it, so I have decided to address the issue like this: cheating, although never acceptable, crosses a more severe line when done on any assignment or exam that plays a major role in the outcome of a student's grade.

Every student in their career forgets at least one assignment. Maybe because they just didn't hear it, had to work, or it just slipped their mind; no one has been spared the shock factor experience when you walk into a room and realize you completely spaced an assignment.

With most of my past teachers, late work has been considered unacceptable. I understand the point that this teaches you how the real world works, but then again, in the real world I won't be juggling the 7 different occupations my seven different classes represent in addition to three post-work activities. Because of these many and varied responsibilities and obligations, I too have had to resort to quickly copying down the answers to an assignment from a peer's paper.

Copying homework assignments should be considered cheating, but as long as it is done only once or twice a year on minor assignments, I really don't feel there is that much harm in it. Student's lives are extremely hectic, and everyone slips up now and then, but that doesn't mean their grade should be dropped from an A to an A- because they forgot one assignment.

The real harm is when students begin copying down entire tests from others or plagiarizing entire papers. These students are helping themselves to grades achieved by those who had to study for hours on end or give up weekends to write a nine-page paper.

Everyone needs a hand now and again, we all just need to make sure it doesn't become a need for an arm every period.

Dillon Kimmel
News Editor

His eyes drifted harmlessly to the paper next to him. Answer C. Good enough. Again he peeked. Answer C again. And without thinking twice, again and again, he copied the boy's answers next to him, praying the kid knew the right answers. A week later, he gets a test back marked with a red "A" at the top; a grade he most certainly did not earn. And that nagging feeling of embarrassment and guilt was always there. But as he always did, he pushed it away.

Sound familiar? It should. Cheating at our school has become an epidemic among students. It seems there is more copying these days than actual studying. But why? Is it because we have become so pampered, so lazy they can't do their own homework or study for their own tests anymore? I can understand a student forgetting to do an assignment occasionally, but every day seems a little far-fetched. It seems students are taking advantage of their peers in order to get high grades.

With colleges accepting fewer students and putting more strict policies into place regarding admissions, the pressure is on students more than ever to succeed in school. Parents can be very intimidating when it comes to grades, and some students may feel they have no choice but to cheat to meet their parent's expectations.

Nonetheless, there is no excuse for cheating. It is wrong no matter what the reasoning is behind it. A student should do his or her own work, use their own answers, and use their own knowledge in taking tests. The consequences of being lazy could be steep once a student embarks on college. If a student has not established good work habits, they will struggle in college.

I'm not saying I'm a model to follow on this issue. I'll admit, my eyes have wandered (most of the time intentionally) during tests and quizzes and I do copy other's homework when I fail to finish mine. But I feel that I have established good work and study habits, and I know those skills were seriously help me down the road.

Senseless students sabotage selves, others, environment with selfishness

Through the years, the school cafeteria has undergone some subtle but significant changes in policy and procedure. Once, students had the opportunity to use metal silverware and plastic trays that held a greater amount of food. Because a growing number of students found it amusing to leave their trays and silverware at the table or throw them in the trash along with the remnants of their food, that privilege was revoked not long after the beginning of the 2001-02 school year.

Replaced with small, flimsy Styrofoam containers and plastic silverware, the old trays were substantially more tangible and practical because they could be washed and reused. This process of reusing the trays was both an economical and intelligent practice due to the comparatively minimal amount of money required for a one-time purchase of the plastic trays and water to wash them versus the cost of approximately two thousand (about the number of students at school) Styrofoam trays daily. The school, which should have been applauded for its efficient use of taxpayers' money, was forced by the stupidity and sloth of students to resort to a more expensive and harmful alternative.

In addition to adding an unnecessary, preventable cost to the school system, the Styrofoam trays are making a mess of the environment. Since Styrofoam is inert, it is not biodegradable; as a result, the natural process of decomposition is disrupted when the new trays are discarded.

The school is not to blame for this fact, but it is unfortunate that the school has had to resort to polluting the environment because of students' thoughtlessness.

In addition to throwing the reusable plastic trays in the garbage, a large number of students find tossing their trays in the trash too taxing and opt instead to leave their food, trays, and trash on the table. Not only is this practice rude and inconsiderate for obvious reasons, it is childish. The cafeteria is not a restaurant where students are waited on. We choose our own food and wait in line instead of having it brought to us; it follows that we would clean up after ourselves as well. With trash cans located at the end of every other long table, students have only to walk a distance of a few feet or maybe meters to prove their maturity and responsibility. Since first grade, we have been expected to clean up after ourselves in the lunchroom, but some students apparently believe that they are now exempt from an expectation that has been in place all of their lives.

Slothful and selfish students have forced the school to adopt new cafeteria procedures, but these procedures only serve to harm taxpayers and the environment.

Editorial Board Vote: 5 For 0 Against

the editorial review

Legalization will add to nation's social dilemmas; education, rehabilitation programs are solutions to drug problem

Facts about Marijuana

- *Intoxication lasts for 2-3 hours*
- *Scientific name is Cannabis Sativa*
- *The bud part of the plant is most commonly smoked as marijuana*
- *In 1982 the Drug Enforcement Administration turned increased attention to marijuana farms in the United States*
- *Use originated in China around 2737 BC. Its use spread to India, North Africa, and Europe*
- *Causes developmental difficulties for fetus in pregnant women*
- *Lowers testosterone levels and sperm counts in men*
- *Raises testosterone levels in women*
- *Extensively cultivated during WWII*

sourceencyclopedia.com

Alicia Batchelder
Writer

Drug legalization: What is the world coming to? Yes, the legalization of some drugs may deter those who merely use drugs as a means of rebellion from authority, but the legalization will also spark an interest in others to try different drugs that are currently illegal. Clearly, the legalization of drugs will provide a plethora of social problems whose solutions are not on the nation's agenda.

> "Rather than giving in, we should be trying harder. People haven't been educated enough on the true effects that drugs have on people.

Growing up, I lived in a family where drug use, legal and illegal, ran rampant. Cigarettes, alcohol, and marijuana were favorites among my extended family. Because of this, I grew up very aware that if I ever got started on any drug, I'd soon be hooked. I did not want to ruin myself or my future; consequently, I have made a conscious effort to steer clear of drugs since I was a young girl.

Recently, I spent a week in a hospital and was fortunate enough to meet some amazing people, some of whom were going through rehabilitation for drug abuse. One particular person, a woman who was around 30, sparked my interest. She was pregnant with her eighth or ninth child. Prior to admitting herself to rehab, she had lost custody of all of her other children when the courts decided that she was not capable of taking care of them. She didn't own a house and had spent years on the streets, moving from shelter to shelter.

She was a drug addict at its worst. Drugs had ruined her family and her life for more than a decade, when she finally made the decision to become clean. Upon signing herself into the hospital, she committed herself, meaning that she would remain in the program for as long as her doctors wanted her to, until she was completely clean. She wanted to become a mother to her new child, a mother that she had not been before. She was beginning a journey, a journey that too many people are taking today.

Drugs are too ubiquitous in our society. If this country goes as far as to legalize drugs, we will be submitting to a war that could be won with a little effort. Rather than giving in, we should be fighting harder. People haven't been educated enough on the true effects that drugs have on people. If the government spent more money on helping drug addicts than just throwing them into jail, the entire situation would have been improved. Upon being let out of jail, many drug addicts make their way right back to the streets and are not ready to be on their own without the help of drugs. The problem is real and is too ignored by the government and by people altogether. Education is absolutely necessary. People need to be able to see what is happening. The drug addicts need to be able to understand their problem and those who are merely viewing from a distance need to be involved in the fight as well.

Marijuana is only the beginning to a problem that has become larger than is truly necessary. Many people begin a long journey of drug addiction with marijuana. These people think that there isn't a problem with marijuana, and although it isn't the most harmful of drugs, it still has effects. Marijuana has caused people to cause car accidents just as much as alcohol has, and has harmed the lives of many people. It has become a part of everyday life that needs to be stopped. People haven't realized how dangerous the drug is. It has become a beginning to a drug addiction for many people who use it to bridgechild their way to drugs that are much more addictive and harmful.

Yes, there is a drug problem in the United States, but legalization will not solve the problem. Making drugs more readily available for personal use is a significant step in the wrong direction. Since when do you fight a wrongdoing by turning around and claiming that the action is not a wrongdoing? The people in this country need to be educated and legalizing the wrong is not the way to accomplish that goal. Legalization is merely the government giving up on a fight that can be easily won with a bit more effort. People need to be educated. Programs should be started to help the people that need help. People who aren't informed about addiction should be informed. The problem is widespread now and people should step up and take action. This problem can't be overcome on its own, but as soon as people try to make a difference, a difference will be made.

More programs to help the already addicted and education for the uninformed are the solutions that should be considered. Drug legalization is not an answer to the drug problem that faces our country.

Alicia Batchelder is a senior and works as a writer for the Spartana. *The views and ideas expressed in this opinion do not necessarily represent those of* the Spartana *or of its staff.*

Marijuana Legalization

photo:zach hetrick

Prohibition demonstrated faultiness in banning substance use; marijuana should be legal for those 21 and over

Jim Katz
Writer

Ever since the counter-culture of the 1960's struck the United States, mainstream society has embarked on a quest to lessen or, perhaps, eliminate drug abuse among teenagers and adults alike. While several drugs have gone through periods of popularity, none of their influences have been comparable to the impact of marijuana in our society. With the exception of alcohol during prohibition, marijuana has been the most widely used illegal substance in the history of the United States.

The goal of prohibition was to put an end to alcohol consumption in the United States. This measure was supposed to lead to less crime, less violence, and fewer illegal activities, in general. Almost the exact opposite happened. At first, alcohol consumption went down, but within a year or so it had returned to its prior level, if not exceeded it. In addition, the crime rate went through the roof. There were a plethora of people making bathtub gin or other types of homemade "moonshine." Also, the banning of alcohol allowed for the creation of many Mafia, who made most of their money selling illegal alcohol. The large amounts of money involved led to a massive increase in violence.

This situation can be compared to that of drug dealers in modern society. Many people are involved in the production and distribution of an illegal product where a lot of money can be made. As a result of the large amounts of money, great deal of violence occurs due to drug sales. People would like to think of prohibition and the war on drugs as two very different concepts, but those individuals are naive in drawing that conclusion.

Many people argue that legalizing marijuana will encourage many more people to use it: this statement can be argued because the vast majority of people who do not use marijuana choose not to do so because of both the short and long term health risks involved in its use. It is the same concept as smoking tobacco. Many people could smoke and do not do so because of many of the same health risks.

Both alcohol and marijuana have similar effects on people. In small amounts they relax a person and in large amounts they impair their mind and body severely, possibly to the point of death. The only difference is society's perception of the two drugs. Alcohol has been around for as long as we can remember. We see ads for alcohol everywhere: on television, radio, magazines, and billboards. Alcohol has an overall positive image in our society. People believe it can make you relaxed, excited, attractive, masculine, or simply a happier person.

Marijuana, on the other hand, has a very different public image as compared to alcohol. Every advertisement shows someone's life ruined by marijuana. Movies and television largely show it as a substance that can only lead to problems. I am not arguing that marijuana isn't as destructive as many claim, but alcohol and marijuana have similar problems, and should be represented that way.

Marijuana and smoking tobacco are also very similar. They both can cause lung cancer and other diseases of the respiratory system. They are both addictive, although the nicotine in cigarettes has been proven to be more addictive. Only 10 percent of marijuana users show signs of dependency, whereas 32 percent of tobacco users do. While the image of tobacco has worsened in recent years, it is still a much more publicly accepted drug than marijuana is, despite the many obvious hazards they share.

I personally have never used marijuana. I do know many people who have and do use marijuana. I would be lying if I said that I have never thought about using marijuana. I have made a personal decision not to do so because the negatives outweigh the positives in my mind. On the other hand, most people who do use marijuana do so in a way that harms no one but themselves, so it doesn't bother me.

This summer we had two boys die in a car crash while they were using marijuana. It was a tragedy, but it was not a call for continuing the ban on marijuana. Drivers under the influence of alcohol cause many more car crashes than do users under the influence of marijuana. The problem is under age use. Marijuana should be treated like alcohol, legal to adults, 21 years of age or older. If you want to sit in your own house and use it, go ahead. If you go in public and drive or cause a public disturbance, then you should be reprimanded.

It is hypocritical to legalize one drug and ban another. Both alcohol and tobacco kill more people. A greater percent of their users are addicted to either alcohol or tobacco. Yet marijuana and other illegal substances have been chosen as the target of all the cries to save our society. If we want to ban dangerous substances, why not ban them all? Prohibition proved that idea faulty. We should allow responsible adults to choose what they do with their bodies. As long as they harm no one but themselves, we have no place to tell them what to do.

Jim Katz is a junior and works as a writer for the Spartana. *The views and ideas expressed in this opinion do not necessarily represent those of* the Spartana *or of its staff.*

Student Input

> "It doesn't matter if it's legal or illegal, people are still going to do it no matter what. Even if it is made legal, I don't think the number of people who do drugs will change that much.
> Hannah Smith (10)

> "I think it would be bad because more people would do drugs.
> Stephen Mendenhall (11)

> "I'm more for [marijuana legalization] than against it because truthfully marijuana is actually less harmful than tobacco and alcohol. More people die from alcohol each year than from marijuana.
> Travis Baker (12)

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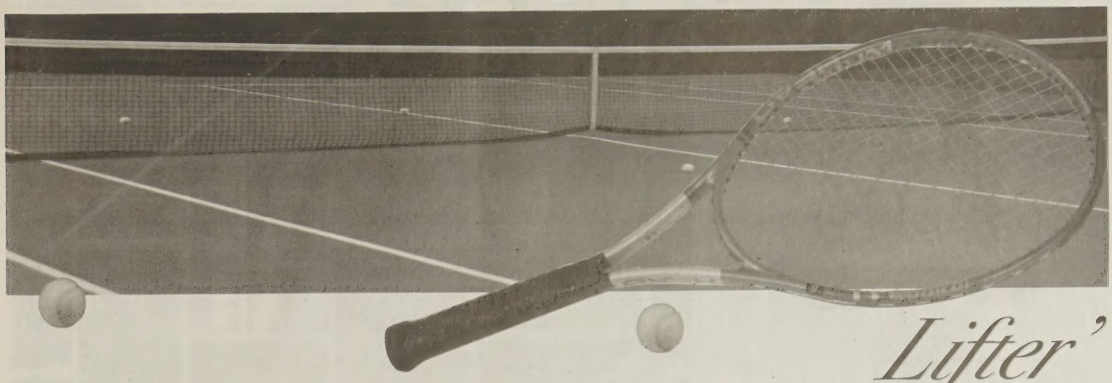
The Spartana is a biweekly production of the Journalism 3/4 class at Homestead High School. Its purpose is to enlighten, educate, and entertain. *The Spartana* has and may continue to operate as a limited open forum for the free exchange of ideas.

Profanity may appear in *the Spartana* with the approval of the advisor, but only in cases of direct quotations or if it is necessary for clarity. Material which is libelous or obscene and could cause substantial and material disruption, as defined by the Supreme Court, will not be printed.

Public input will be accepted in the form of letters to the editor. Letters must follow standards concerning liable or obscenity. Those which could cause substantial and material disruption, as defined by the Supreme Court will not be printed.

Staff members of *the Spartana* support the First Amendment rights and oppose censorship in any form. The content of the paper is determined by the student staff. In cases of potentially controversial material the editorial board will meet to decide the content of the newspaper. Students will be assisted by the advisor in areas of professional ethics and legalities.



'Tennis Net Lifter'

Biology teacher, tennis coach Jim Shull introduces to marketing company new invention to help tennis players

Larry Buchanan
Associate Surplus Editor

The holiday season: crowded stores, busy streets, and holiday cheer characterize the month of December. Around this time of year in 2003, one could find biology teacher Jim Shull in a store-- but not in a Sears or a JC Penney's. Shull could be found in a plumbing store wondering if the company made telescoping post for his lingering invention: the "Tennis Net Lifter."

The idea for the invention had come ten years earlier, but Shull decided that last year was the time to seriously pursue the invention. Consequently, he designed the net and started looking for materials to build the apparatus.

As a long time tennis coach and former tennis pro, Shull came up with the idea to attach a second opaque tennis net to the already existing net. The second net would hide the court lines and could be raised or lowered according to the drill being done, the player's ability, or the coach's specifications.

"The earlier models of the net included another specific net attached to the existing net," Shull said. "A reel was also needed to pull up the extra cable to raise and lower the net."

The net was initially called "The Elevator" with the slogan of, "Elevate the net, Elevate your game!" Invent Tech, the company working on the marketing of the invention, felt that the name was too generic. The company came up with "Tennis Net Lifter".

The goal of the invention is to develop heavier spin on the serve and develop an ability to clear the net safely.

"It's really a ground stroking and serving tool," Shull said. "Nothing like this has ever been made before, and personally I think that every tennis organization should have one."

Over the past two seasons Shull has seen improvement in both the girls and boys tennis teams with the use of the Tennis Net Lifter.

> "Ideally, I think that every tennis institution, school, and college should have one, possibly two."
>
> -Jim Shull

"I am head coach of the girls team and assistant coach of the boys team," Shull said. "I have been using the elevator for two seasons with each of the teams. Even though I'm not head coach of the boys, the head coach, Jim Clark, took to the idea immediately and used the net in practice often."

Shull is steadily making progress with the invention. He has received support from many people while going through this invention process. Some of the tennis players who originally helped Shull construct the net and tie up all of the loose ends were Kyle Brown (class of '04), Troy Bixler (class of '04), Alex Bienz (class of '04), and Sam Rocke (class of '04). Zach Hetrick (10) and Larry Buchanan (10) also helped Shull advertise his net. Hetrick took photos of the net and Buchanan designed a brochure for him. Shull used the photos and brochure help advertise the invention.

"At the current stage, we are on our fourth version of the [Tennis Net Lifter] CD, a video has been made, and it is on the Invent Tech website," Shull said. "Right now they are getting registered with the patent office, which protects the inventor, so that no one can steal the idea. After that, [Invent Tech and I] are looking for a company to manufacture it. Then it will be patented and the idea is sold. That is the goal. Right now I am positioning myself to represent myself to a potential manufacturer."

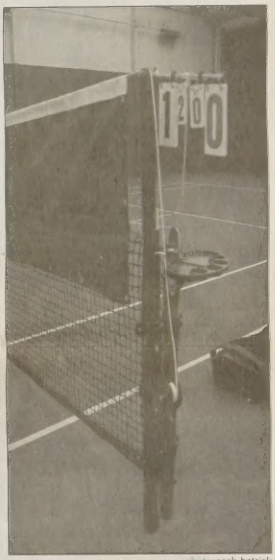
Once the net is in production, Shull will send the invention to the Tennis Research Institute where it will be put through many different tests.

"The research center will provide me with some numbers," Shull said. "Like how quickly it increases [shot] depth and safety in clearing the net."

The target range for the Tennis Net Lifter is tennis institutions, colleges, parks and recreation centers, and tennis clubs around the nation.

"Ideally," Shull said, "I think that every tennis institution, school, and college should have one; possibly two."

When the Tennis Net Lifter is bought by a company, Shull says the approximate price will be a couple of hundred dollars. Invent Tech will receive ten percent of the initial price that it is bought for, in addition to the cost that Shull is paying them for their services. Afterward, Invent Tech will receive two to twenty percent (that price is to be negotiated with the company) of all sales and Shull will receive seven percent.



photos/zach hetrick

» Biology teacher and tennis coach Jim Shull's invention, the Tennis Net Lifter, is pictured above. The Tennis Net Lifter is opaque so that the lines on the other side of the court are hidden. Using the Tennis Net Lifter can give a player more topspin on his ground strokes and serves, as well as improve his game immensely.

Timeline of Events

- **Shull receives USPTA certification (1974)**
- **He becomes girls tennis head coach at HHS (1989)**
- **Shull goes to pipe company and begins project (2003)**
- **Shull begins assistant coaching boys tennis at HHS (1987)**
- **Shull invents cumbersome net lifter out of PVC pipe (early 1990s)**
- **Shull contacts Invention Technologies and begins the patent/marketing process (2004)**

Accolades

Neil Shah (12) and **John Greco (12)** won the Wells Scholarship for full tuition, room and board, and a living stipend to Indiana University.

Katie Beck (12) won the DAR (Daughters of the American Revolution) Good Citizen Award.

Jason Leung (12) won semifinalist status for the Siemens Westinghouse Competition in math, science, and technology.

The following is a cast list for the winter play, Spoon River Anthology:

Jocelyn Gauthier (12)	**Matt Anderson (12)**	**Steve Whistler (11)**
Kelly Sinak (12)	**Meg Warner (10)**	**Jim Katz (11)**
Seth Dager (11)	**Philip Thompson (10)**	**Patrick Laughlin (11)**
Ashley Butler (12)	**Austin Hetrick (10)**	**Emma Farnsworth (10)**
Vivian Nguyen (9)	**Chris Miller (11)**	

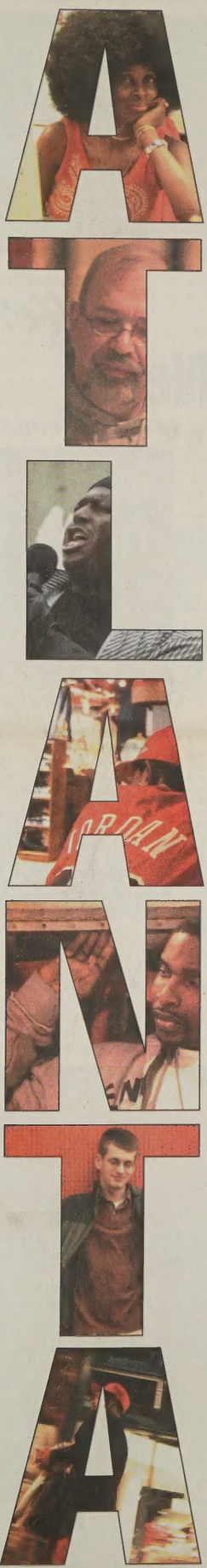
Student Government

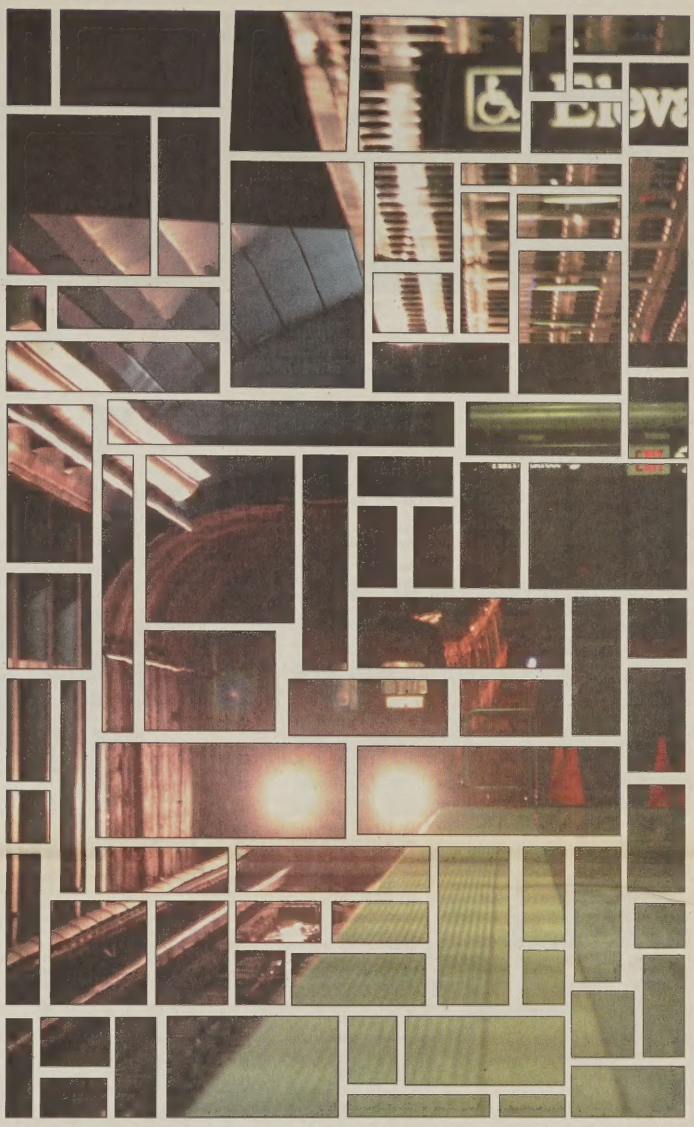
The Semi-formal dance was a big success. The dance lasted from 8 - 12 on Saturday, December 4.

Thank you to everyone who donated money for Adopt-A-Family, this event was also a success and will give many less fortunate families a very, merry Christmas.

MORP and Prom are currently in the planning stages. The planning for both of these events is running smoothly.

Contact Student Government at hhstugov@sacs.k12.in.us, or 431-2942





NSPA Annual Conference provides journalistic education, cultural experience for 16 students and 3 faculty members

Ashley Butler
Profiles Editor

On November 18th, 14 anxious publication students left for four days of journalism education in Atlanta, Georgia.

Students from *the Spartana*, *Retrospect*, and *Mirador* staffs travel to different locations each year to attend the National Scholastic Press Association Conference.

In past years, the group has traveled to Texas, and Washington D.C. However this year, the conference was held in Atlanta, and featured classes led by students and advisors from around the country.

Students attended three to four classes on both Friday and Saturday, with topics ranging from gay issues in the media to typography. Students also attended classes about ethics in journalism, freedom of speech and press, and managing staffs of newspapers, magazines, and yearbooks. The classes were taught by journalism experts from around the country. The opening ceremony featured live music, and special classes that explored journalism through music were also offered.

"The classes were very enlightening," Caitlin Johnston (12) said. "It was beneficial to hear the vast number of perspectives that NSPA brought from all over the country."

Rod Kuhn, publications advisor at this school, taught a class on Friday with Josh Zurawski (12) and Suhasini Bhargava (12). The main issue covered in their class was the level of authority that an advisor should be granted in any publication.

"Our class was basically seminar based," Bhargava said. "We first explained a little bit about what we do at our school, but kept the floor open at the end for questions and comments."

In addition to attending classes, students also participated in a write-off competition.

There were numerous categories to enter for the competition, however only one member from each staff could compete in each division.

Write-off winners from the Spartana staff include Zurawski, in the Photoshop art division, and Annie Baenen (10) in sports writing.

> "Going to these wokshops and competitions really helps us to improve our skills; not only as individuals, but as a staff."
> Larry Buchanan

Amanda Junk (11) was also a winner from the *Retrospect* staff in yearbook captioning.

"Some of the fiercest competition in all the land wrote-off to take home glory and some h-core bragging rights," Zurawski said. "It was a true Darwin experience, only the strongest survived."

In addition to learning about journalistic techniques, the group also got a taste of big city culture while touring points of interest in the area.

When not attending classes or listening to speakers, students spent their time experiencing the happenings in metropolitan Atlanta.

Many visited the plethora of shopping malls, including Lenox Square and Phipps Plaza. Many of the malls were more upscale than those in Fort Wayne, encompassing more high end shops.

"Shopping in Atlanta is like closing your eyes and picking out a jelly bean from an assorted Jelly Belly bag," Zurawski said. "You never know what you're going to get."

Staying in the Marriot Marquis, in Atlanta's business district, it was necessary for students to take the Marta subway into the more interesting parts of town.

"I enjoyed riding the Marta," Bhargava said. "I actually nicknamed it Betty, which I thought was more fitting for a subway name."

Though the hotel was far from some of the more interesting sights, it was extremely close to the convention hotel, which was convenient for attending convention functions.

One of the more prominent functions sponsored by the NSPA was a student dance on Friday night. Here, publications students were able to socialize with people from other schools and relax after a busy day.

"The Homestead representatives really shook things up at the dance," Caitlin Johnston (12) said. "We just enjoyed partyin' with all those pub kids."

On the last night in Atlanta, students visited "Underground Atlanta," a shopping plaza and tourist attraction, to spend their last few hours of city life. "Underground Atlanta" featured older shops, traditional shopping, and a plethora of street vendors.

Though the trip was short, students felt that it was an educational and worthwhile experience.

"As young journalists, we need guidance in many areas," Larry Buchanan said. "Going to these workshops and competitions really helps us to improve on our skills; not only as individuals, but as a staff."

Letter to the editor. 4A • Limits on Cheating. 5A • Drug Legalization. 6A • Atlanta, GA. 8A •
you are here▲

Girls B-ball

Struggling early on, the Spartans look to find their footing.

p. 2

Sports

Making A Splash

A look into star senior diver Dan Frebel's and the swim team's futures.

p. 4

Issue 7 • the Spartana • December 17, 2004

Swimmers sidelined by sicknesses

DANGEROUS CHLORINE LEVELS LEAD TO MULTIPLE SWIM TEAM ILLNESSES

Sam Van Horn
Writer

This year the number of swimmers on the swimming team has increased and has caused problems for a number of people.

Certain swimmers on the team have gotten sick due to reasons many people did not know of. However, now it is known that the chlorine level in the pool was the main reason for the swimmers to obtain illness.

As everyone knows, chlorine is put in every pool to get rid of harmful bacteria. However, the chlorine in the pool for the swimmers has done harm to players on the team.

"With more people on the team, people were kicking chlorine into the air," Adam Lill (10) said.

When the chlorine was splashing around, swimmers were swallowing the chlorine. This did damage to their lungs and caused for some to get bronchitis.

Repeated exposures or a single high exposure may in fact cause bronchitis to develop with a cough, phlegm, and/or shortness of breath, and may permanently damage the lungs.

Along with the chlorine being a problem, the filtration system was not working.

> "However, the chlorine in the pool for Homestead swimmers has done harm to players on the team."
> Sam Van Horn

This made it difficult to get the water circulated in the pool.

They did many things to help fix what was wrong, for instance, bringing in testers to lower the chlorine level. When the level is lowered, there will less likely be a chance of swallowing the amount of chlorine to obtain bronchitis and other side effects.

They also brought in house fans to blow air around and get circulation around the pool. These were placed along the side of the pool.

"The fans work really well," said Lill. "They help out a lot."

The main reason for the sick swimmers was in fact the chlorine in the pool. With more swimmers on the team, the chlorine level has indeed become a problem. Now that it is fixed, the sick swimmers should be cured.

The filtration system in the pool was not working properly and was looked at and fixed. And with the filtration working right, the water should be better to swim in.

Also, in addition the air surrounding the pool can cause sickness; however, with the fans placed on the side of the pools, the air becomes healthier and safer for the swimmers to breathe.

Overall, the sick swimmers now have a better environment to swim in, and the outbreaks of sickness should cease.

LEADING BY EXAMPLE

THE UPPERCLASSMEN STRIVE TO CONTINUE TO DRIVE THEIR TEAM THROUGH THE SEASON, AND COME OUT ON TOP THIS SEASON

Tyler Keena
Writer

The boys basketball team has gotten off to a successful start to the season with a 3-2 record and still looking to improve as they gain experience and the season progresses.

In their first game, the Spartans traveled to Whitko High School where they rolled to their first victory of the year in routine fashion. Jono Cobb (11) led the team to the win with 31 points.

After their first win, the team gained confidence, but they had a tougher task ahead in their next game at Harding High School. The tough Hawks team was up for the challenge and took down the Spartans 79-60. Throughout the game, the Spartans struggled to rebound defensively and Harding was able to get many second-chance opportunities, most of which they were able to capitalize on. However, despite the loss and lack of rebounding, the Spartans knew they could bounce back with preparation for their next game, the first home game of the season, against Wayne High School.

"We worked a lot on defense and boxing out," Trevor Terrell (11) said. "We struggled in both areas against Harding and we needed to improve and bounce back against Wayne."

The Spartans did just that as they dominated the Wayne Generals in front of the home fans. Leiendecker (11) led the team in scoring.

However, despite getting off to a strong 2-1 start, the Spartans knew that they had a lot of work to do if they want to keep winning in conference play and into the postseason.

"We have a lot of individual talent," Ben Haifley (12) said. "We need to put that together and play as a team to be successful throughout the season."

The boys went into their fourth game of the season looking for their first back-to-back wins of the season. The Spartans hung with the South Side Archers for a majority of the game, but missed some fast break and second chance opportunities late in the game, leading to a tough five-point loss. Once again, the team's defensive struggles emerged as the team had trouble rebounding and giving up many easy baskets to the Archers off of offensive rebounds.

However, once again, the team's resiliency showed as they bounced back from their second loss in three games with a win against Manchester on Saturday, December 11 to bring their overall record back above .500.

Despite a having a relatively young team, perhaps the Spartans' biggest strength is their depth at almost every position, especially in the backcourt.

With only two seniors on the team, the Spartans will have to look to their younger players for both leadership and scoring.

"We are a pretty young team with only two seniors," Ben Haifley said. "But our younger players have a lot of talent and anybody on the team is capable of stepping up on any given night and helping the team to victory."

Besides Leiendecker and Cobb, the two seniors Haifley and Grabowski have came up big in several games, both defensively and offensively, to help the Spartans to victory.

The team will be looking for somebody to step up as they head into their first conference game against Carroll tonight, once again looking to start their first winning streak of the season.

From Top Left: Grant Leiendecker (11), Trevor Terrell (11), Jono Cobb (11), Ben Haifley (12)

photos zach hetrick

Hockey skates up the rankings

Hockey glides through the season, stumbles against Carroll, but secures a winning record

Evan Childers
Writer

The hockey team has jumped to an impressive 2nd place in the Fort Wayne Area High School Hockey League (FWAHSHL) after a strong 6-3-1 start to their regular season.

"We're off to a good start," Jordan Churchill (12) said. "We didn't win the first matches against Carroll or Snider, but we're playing well and we can definitely beat them if we just execute a little better."

The team is led by the strong play of seniors Cort Bulloch (12) and Churchill. Bulloch is the team's leading scorer, and Churchill has been a strong presence on the team despite missing a few games this year.

The team opened regular season play with a convincing win over Northrop on October 6, routing the opposition 8-3. A week later, the squad followed with another win against Northside, winning 5-2, and then managed a tie against a tough Snider team, 5-5, on October 20. New Haven was the next team to fall to the Spartans, losing 8-1 in a one-sided match that took place October 27. Carroll, which currently leads the league with a 10-0-0 record, handed the team its first loss on December 3. Players complained of poor officiating throughout the match but played tough during the course of the game en route to the 7-5 loss. Snider handed the team its only other defeat the following week, but the Spartans rebounded from the back-to-back defeats and won their next three matches, which were against New Haven, Northrop, and Northside respectively. Unfortunately, the Spartans couldn't pull out a victory against Carroll in a rematch. The team's lack of execution led to a blowout loss, which prevented them from giving Carroll a game.

"We're a good team and we're playing well," Churchill said. "We have good team unity and it helps us during the tough matches. Carroll and Snider are the two toughest teams we have to face, but we have the ability to beat them any given week."

Last year the team got all the way to the championship game before losing to a senior-filled Northrop team, 5-0. With the team's current streak of victories and winning attitude, they hope to go far in the post-season, and have the talent to do so.

"We're a good team and if we play like we know we can then we'll do really well during the postseason," Churchill said. "We hope to go far this year."

After the Spartans' most recent loss to Carroll, coach Robbie Sterkey resigned. He had been under fire from parents and the league due to his management of the team.

photos jack rozman

Phil Gibson (11) controls the puck, and (right) an opponent gets checked.

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Girls basketball aims for success in new season

Team starts season with a 1-3 record; loses to Bishop Dwenger and Huntington North , wins against Elmhurst 62-50

Caitlin Myers
Writer

Girls varsity basketball has launched its season with a 1-3 record after tough matches against Bishop Dwenger, Huntington North and Northside. The team has struggled early due to its lack of experience, having only three seniors on the entire squad. Despite these difficulties the team remains hopeful that its year-long conditioning and determination will help the players to rebound from these early losses and propel them to a successful season.

The girls started their season off with a loss against Bishop Dwenger with a score of 59-54. The top two scorers were Kaitlyn McMillen (10) with 13 points and Hannah Weide (12) with 12 points. For the girls' second game, they played Elmhurst and won 62-50. The top scorers for this game were McMillen with 16 points, Stephanie Mitchell (10) with 11 points, and Jenna Pierce (12) with 9 points. The ladies played Huntington North for their third game, and had a dramatic loss of 89-36. Kristin Bruce (12) and Mitchell were the top scorers with 6 points each.

"The first game we played gave us a feel of how our season was going to be with the new players," Jenny Schepper (11) said. "We just need to continue to put things together and play as a team."

The girls started conditioning for their season early last spring. They had open gyms as early as April, and they played with the team throughout the summer.

"Conditioning was hard core and very intense," Schepper said. "We sprinted 99.9 percent of the time."

> "The first game we played gave us a feel of how our season was going to be with the new players. We just need to continue to put things together and play as a team."
>
> Jenny Schepper

The cuts were made and the ladies that made the varsity team were Schepper, Pierce, Weide, Bruce, Mitchell, McMillen, Kacie Whitmore (11), and Jessica Bruce (11). There are also players who play JV and varsity. These players include Nadia Ghaffarian (10), Eden Lamb (11), Elaine Gemple (11), and Joy Nordin (11).

The next game for the girls was on Saturday, December 4th at noon against Norwell.

"Though we are a very young team, we have tons of potential and talent," Schepper said. "It's been a little bumpy at the start, but I know as the season progresses, we will excel and be a difficult team to defeat."

On Tuesday, December 14, the girls played against Southside High School at home. Upcoming basketball games for the girls include the following ones: January 4 against Snider and January 7 against East Noble.

photo:zach hetrick

» Kacie Whitmore (11) dribbles the ball past an opposing team member

« Hannah Weide (12) is determined to move around her opponent.

photo:zach hetrick

» Kaitlyn Mcmillin (11) runs toward the hook for a layup against Norwell High School. The girls played Norwell on December 4.

photo:katie corson

Dance dominates area competition

Girls win first place in jazz, lyrical categories at Marion on December 11

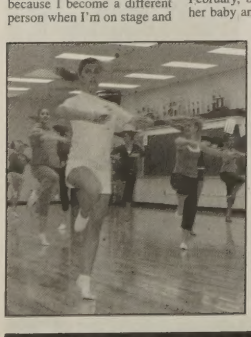
Evan Childers
Writer

Dictionary.com defines dance as "to move rhythmically- usually to music, using prescribed or improvised steps and gestures." But these words are inadequate when trying to describe the grace and coordination of the girls varsity dance team- a team that redefines dance every time it takes the floor.

"Dance is magical for me because I become a different person when I'm on stage and I forget about everything else," dancer Katie Johnston (12) said.

This year the team has a new stand-in teacher, Daisy Paroczy, who cleans the dances and comes in for practices. The dance coach, Jennifer Bay, has taken a new assistant principal job and is thus occupied during 7th period, making the new teacher necessary. Other complications are going to force Paroczy to stand in during some of the team's upcoming competitions.

"Mrs. Bay is going to miss competitions in January, possibly February, because she's having her baby and so Daisy has been coming to practices because she will be coming to compete with us and doing Mrs. Bay's job," Johnston, a senior dancer, said. "But we're still really excited about our first competition."



The team has been preparing since the early weeks of the summer; attending two practices a week during the break and now practices after school on a daily basis. Rigorous workouts have helped the team to achieve its current level of expertise- last year the team won a national competition in Florida.

"It's really hard work right now but after our first competition it gets really fun." Johnston said.

The team offers many creative opportunities for the girls, while remaining a fun and enriching experience for all involved.

"I joined the team freshman year because I danced my whole life but I've never been in a school sport or activity or anything so I tried out," Johnston said. "It's really been a great experience for me."

Lately you may have noticed the dance girls selling candy. The purpose of this exercise is to raise money for the team's upcoming trips and competitions.

"I especially love selling candy for the dance team because I get to eat a lot of it," dancer Michelle Decker (12) said.

The team's first competition was on December 11, and from then onwards the team will compete two or three times a months. The team placed first at the competition.

"We're really juiced about our first competition." Decker said.

'Juiced' is dance slang for excited.

"Me, personally, I'm nervous because I have a solo, duet, and large ensemble," Johnston said. "Our first competition always comes up real fast but I'm sure we'll do fine."

But dance is not about the competition, it is about the mystique of the art.

"I feel like I'm a magical person when I'm dancing," Decker said. "I get lost in the dance. I just want the moment to last forever."

Leaps and tumbles

Girls gymnastics team begins season with regular practices

Jessica Bird
Writer

Shelley Toth (12) takes the floor in her uneven bar routine. The year is 2003 at the sectionals. Toth's score along with the help of her teammates gives the Spartans 5th place at sectionals. Although the team did not go past sectionals, Toth made it to regionals for the uneven bars and her floor routine. With the 2003 season completed, the girls have worked extremely hard to improve personally and as a team. The 2004-05 season of Spartan gymnastics is off and tumbling.

"We improved a lot over last year but the competition is also getting better," Vicki Toth (12) said. "Compared to the year before [however] we did better last year."

Last year, the Spartans did not execute well enough to defeat Bishop Dwenger. The loss occurred mainly because Dwenger had won state the year before and had four excellent all around gymnasts, whom the Spartans could not beat.

"Dwenger was the hardest team to go against because they had won state the year before," V. Toth said.

This year, however, the team plans to work out the glitch and come through with the win against Dwenger as well as other difficult teams such as Snider.

"Everyone is learning how to use a table," V. Toth said. "A table is a vault with a bigger surface. The table is new this year and is going to help us a lot with vaulting."

> "We've all improved over the summer. The seniors will lead the team in scoring at competitions."
>
> Shelley Toth

The Toths, both returning seniors, along with Courtney Garton (12), Felicia Pion (12), and Jennifer Hanson (12) hope to contribute yet again to another successful season for Spartan gymnastics.

"We've all improved over the summer," S. Toth said. "The seniors will lead the team in scoring at competitions."

A bit of irony is inflicted on the team in regard to who is most likely to bring up big scores for the Spartans. As most would consider obvious, the seniors, being much more experienced in high school competitions, will gather most points for the team. On the other hand, a few freshmen, first-timers in high school competitions, are predicted to bring in the next most amount of points. Other than returning seniors, incoming freshmen are predicted to help bring in good scores at competitions for the Spartans.

"Christen Chenoweth (9) is freshman who is good at the floor and beam," V. Toth said. "Another freshman that will help contribute is Emma. She has good vaults and is good at floor."

The Toth sisters, as well as the other seniors, have been part of the gymnastics program most of their high school careers. In that time, S. Toth has gone the farthest in competition, to the regional level, over the years. The dedication that the seniors have shown to the program has propelled them to this admirable level of success, and hopefully their hard work will pay off during their final year with the program. All factors indicate that the seniors will make their final year on the team a memorable one: for themselves and for the team.

"This year the seniors are trying to make really good routines," Hanson said.

The first competition for the team is on January 6 against Elmhurst.

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Dancing Queens

Sam Van Horn
Writer

Practice makes perfect, and perfection is what the JV dance team has been striving for since the beginning of this summer. Once a week, the team tried to meet and have all 17 girls work on their routines of jazz and pom.

The 17 girls on the team consist of freshmen, sophomores, and juniors, all of which are preparing for a season with high expectations.

"Our expectations are really good," Taylor Underwood (10) said. "Our coach told us we're going to be better than anyone will believe."

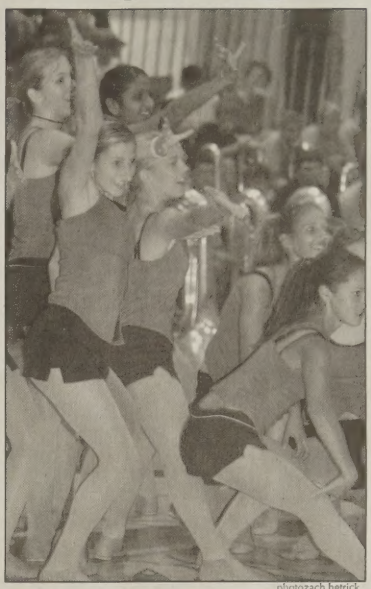
The team now practices two times a week instead of just once. On Tuesdays and Thursdays, the girls get together and practice from 2:30-4:30.

The routines this year for the squad are jazz and pom.

"We always do differently than what the varsity does," Underwood said. "We love doing jazz and pom, and since varsity doesn't pick it, we always do."

Practices remain just two times a week until competition time, with which then they start to become more intense getting ready for competition. The first competition for the team was on December 11th, and was held at Marion High School. Expectations for their first competition were high, considering the fact that the girls had something to prove to everyone. They wanted to show everybody that they had what it took to win.

At the JV dance team's last competition, December 11th, at Marion High School, the team placed first in its pom division and first in its jazz division. The dancers had to face one of their toughest competitors, Northrop, to finish on top. Northrop finished behind the team with second place. Natalie Wray (9) placed second in her solo division.



photozach hetrick

<< The JV dance team performs its jazz routine at the fall pep session. The dance routine that the girls did is the one that they will be performing at competitions all throughout this winter.

"The competition was a great first performance," dance coach Jennifer Bay said. "Northrop is always a strong competitor."

The JV team competed in Division IV.

"The JV Dance team is in Division IV, in which we compete with about 8 or 9 teams," Underwood said.

To determine a winner in each division, there are three judges critiquing the dances from each of the schools. For the team's case, they were judged in a group with eight or nine other teams. So, they did not necessarily need to beat every team from a specific conference. They just needed to defeat the teams from their division.

Each school performs two types of dances for the judges. This year, the team decided to perform jazz and pom.

Pom is a type of cheer dance in which the girls dance while holding pom-poms.

The judges then have different categories they have to look at to decide which team is the best. The categories include communication, projection, choreography, group execution, dance technique, and overall effect.

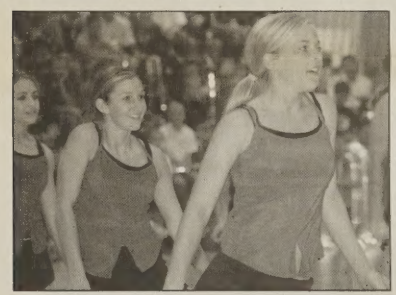
All of the above categories are worth a total of 100 points.

Dating back to the summer, all of the practices are what makes them better as a team. It pays off for categories such as group execution, communication, and overall effect. Working together all year will make their squad better for their competitions. Looking good is what the judges want, and the hard work will give them that.

All of these competitions are preparation for what every team wants to achieve, and that is a first place trophy at state. On March 4 and 5, teams from all over will compete for the state title. Lake Central has taken the title the past two years, and the dance team hopes that this year will be different.

"Two years ago they beat us by 13 points," Underwood said. "And last year they beat us by just 1.5."

This season, however, is looking brighter for the Spartans. With practice starting early in the summer, and continuing throughout the school year, everyone on the team knows that practice does indeed make perfect.



photozach hetrick

» Kelly Strauthman (9) and Natalie Wray (9) perform with the team at a pep session held for the fall sports.

Upcoming Competitions

Jan. 8
Munster High School
Jan. 22
Northrop High School
Jan. 29
Lake Central High School
Feb. 12
Greenfield High School
Feb. 19
Homestead High School
Feb. 26
Regionals
Mar. 4 State

Marion Competition
By the numbers

1 first place in pom

first place in jazz 1

1:56 performance time for pom

3:14 performance time for jazz

Pinning to win

JV Wrestling team conquers Snider Panthers and DeKalb Barons

Joe Salisbury
Writer

After a few months of hard conditioning and weight loss and gain, the junior varsity wrestling team began its season as well as it could have hoped. The team had begun training in early October and had been working vigorously ever since then. Many of the wrestlers had to lose or gain several precious pounds before the season began. A majority of them met their goal, and all the hard work was displayed quickly.

"We did a lot of conditioning to begin the season," Henry Shine (10) said. "We often ran stairs outside in the stadium. The conditioning really paid off because I think we are in better shape than the other teams we have faced."

On November 23, the team opened up its season against the Snider Panthers. The varsity team for Snider was ranked 10th in the state, and the junior varsity team would be just as tough of a challenge. The Spartans came out with passion and that led them to their way of an upset win over the Panthers. Even though it was the first match of the year, the team members could tell that they could have a great season and saw that they had a lot of potential.

"This was quite possibly the biggest win in Homestead wrestling history," Shine said. "It was a great way to start off the season."

On November 30th, DeKalb traveled to the school to face the Spartans. The Spartans continued their beginning-of-the-season excitement, pinning down the Barons on their way to another win. After a conference-opening win, the Spartans went to DeKalb on the weekend for a tournament.

Justin Wight (9) and Shane Ruckel (9) were champions of their weight classes. Kyle Carlson (10) was a runner-up, and Brandon Vaught (10) won third place. Then they had a meet against Norwell on December 7th, for their second conference match of the year.

After gaining this early season confidence, the team traveled to the Plymouth junior varsity invitational. The team went 12-11 at the Plymouth junior varsity invitational. Ruckel was champion at 119 pounds. Doug Schroeder (9) was also a champion in his 135 pound weight class. Grant Barrett (10) was a champion as well in his weight class. In second place for the Spartans came Kirby Carlson (12) at 160 pounds and Andrew Lupton (10) at 215 pounds.

Following their weekend, the Spartans went to Northrop for another important non-conference matchup. This meet was sure to provide the Spartans with another tough challenge. The next day, the team went to Wayne High School for another meet. On December 18th they will go to the Wawasee Invitational.

Throughout the entire season many of the members must constantly watch their weight and make sure that they are at or under their specific weight class.

"It is very hard for some people to maintain a constant weight," Shine said. "Often you will see people running around the upstairs in sweatpants and a sweatshirt to lose a pound or two before weigh in. Also, people sometimes cannot eat the day before the meet to make sure that they are in the weight class."

The team feels very confident about the season. They believe that they can win conference. The team hopes to keep the winning streak coming. Many of the members on the team said that they have one of the best junior varsity teams in the area, and one of the best in the history of the school's athletics.

Upcoming meets for the wrestling team include the Leo Invitational on Tuesday, December 28. After winter break, the team will face Bellmont on January 6.

Encouraging new coach strengthens team

Basketball team welcomes Coach Coolman to program

Josh Butcher
Writer

Familiar with the sport of basketball after having played the sport and having served at Bethel College as an assistant varsity coach, Coolman has joined the school's athletic department to coach the JV basketball team.

Coach Coolman has much experience in the coaching department. He has spent the last four years at Bethel College as an assistant varsity coach. Bethel is where he attended college himself, and played varsity basketball. Basketball was the only sport he really played, beginning in high school where he started for two years. At Bethel he was a member of three national championship teams. Coach Coolman enjoys coaching and is looking forward to a great season.

"I love to teach the game, and my favorite part is the interaction with the players," Coolman said.

Coolman's expectations for the players and the team are high for this JV season.

"My number one goal for the team is to play hard all the time and to improve daily," Coolman said. "I try to pursue excellence in everything. The wins or losses will take care of themselves if we do the things in practice that we need to do."

Coolman tries to have a positive impact on the teens through tough times.

"The one thing I want to stress the most is pursuing excellence whether it's on the court, in class, or even in life," Coolman said. "I want my players to find a meaning in life."

The other JV basketball coach is Tony Casto of the girls team, who is highly experienced in coaching the game. Coach Casto was the coach of the freshmen girls team back in '92-'93, the girls varsity coach of Whitko from '93-'94, and the assistant girls varsity coach here from '94-'96. He played football and basketball at Laporte High School, and enjoys teaching the game. As well as the competition, Coach Casto likes the relationships he builds while coaching.

"[My favorite part about coaching] is the relationships you build with the kids," Casto said. "I like seeing past players later on in life; it's more of a friendship then instead of a player-coach relationship."

As the coach of JV, Casto finds it important to prepare them for the varsity level.

"JV is geared to prepare them to plug into varsity either later that year or the next," Casto said. "Everything we do mimics varsity. If someone was to scout our varsity team, they could watch JV to find out stuff about varsity."

Outside of coaching, Casto is a state trooper and has an eight-year- old son. He enjoys playing with his son, playstation, hunting, and fishing. His role as a coach is an important part of his life to him.

"My purpose is initially to teach them all they can do to win, which leads to by-products that come later," Casto said. "I want to teach them self-discipline, how to compete, and to work hard all the time."

For both coaches, Coolman and Casto, JV is a time for the players to get ready for higher level of play. To them, wins or losses don't necessarily matter, as long as their players are getting better as well as succeeding.

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photos/zach hetrick

Preserving the Powerhouse

With a second place finish at last year's state competition in its wake, boys swim and dive must recover from the loss of an outstanding senior class

Larry Buchanan
Associate Surplus Editor

After an extremely successful post-season, last year, the swim team looks to repeat their dynasty of excellence.

Up at the crack of dawn (or before that time), swimmers practice three mornings out of the week, where they are expected to be in the pool by 5:15 AM. They also practice six days a week.

"Right now, we are just doing a general conditioning circuit," boys and girls swimming coach Chad Englehart said. "Later, we will break down further, when we get closer to bigger competitions."

The practice has shown in the last two dual meets as both teams have beaten their competition.

"All of our practices are intense," Tom Evans (10) said. "It's a really tough program, but I am glad I am a part of it so I can work harder and compete better at state."

Swimmers faced East Noble on Tuesday, November 30.

Beginning with the diving contest, the team swept both the girls and boys competitions. In the boys contest, Dan Frebel (12) took first (score 302.4), followed by David Piercy (11), and Cameron Hansbarger (11). In the girls contest, Samantha Nolting (11) took first (score 215.45), followed by Ashley Hockney (9), and Kesha Bartholme (11).

The girls won the meet with a total score of 135 to East Noble's 51. The Spartans won 8 out of the 11 events at the meet, including all three relays.

"This girls team is probably the best that has ever been at Homestead, or they will compete to that level," Englehart said.

The Spartans took first place in every event in the boys meet, winning with a score of 146 to 35. Frebel was a multiple winner in the 50 and 100 free style. Tom Evans (10) was also a double winner in the 100 breast stroke and 200 individual medley.

In addition to these wins, the teams also won all three relays (200 free style relay, 400 free style relay, and 200 medley relay) with Drew Hadley (12) and Andrew Hoffman (11) competing on each relay team.

On Thursday, December 9, the team faced off against long time rival Snider.

Ranked sixth in the state, the boys beat the Snider Panthers 141-41. In the meet, the boys won all but one event. Bob Dent (12) was a dual winner in the 100 and 200 free style.

15th ranked girls team upset the sixth ranked lady Panthers 101 – 85.

A true test for the Spartans came last Saturday, December 11, when many of the top ranked teams from around the state traveled to the Summit Natatorium to the Homestead Invitational. The teams competing in both the boys and girls divisions included North Central (ranked 2nd for boys and girls), Yorktown (3rd for girls, 19th for boys), Hamilton Southeastern (4th for girls, 5th for boys), Delta (11th for boys), and Concordia Lutheran (14th for boys).

The boys came out on top at their own regional competition, with a cumulative score of 497. The girls came in fourth with a total score of 422.

Of the 29 boys swimmers, only five are seniors. Although both teams are young, Englehart has high hopes for the season.

"[The boys team] is a step below the girls team," Englehart said. "They are young, but they are definitely improving. Our goal for both teams is to compete in the state competition."

The win at the invitational will help the team get a picture of what is ahead. Although both teams beat Carmel earlier in the season, some still feel that they will be a threat at the State competition.

"I think the team has a good shot [at State]," Evans said. "Even though we beat Carmel, we are still going to have a tough time at the meet."

» David Piercey (11) completes a dive against East Noble. The Spartans boast an undefeated record.

« Ben Deschner (12) co-captain of the varsity team, swims against East Noble. The team is 4-0, including a first place finish at the Homestead invite on December 11. Two of the opponents the Spartans defeated were ranked top five in the state (North Central and Hamilton Southeastern). They swim next on the 18th.

Final decision: FSU

Tyler Keena
Writer

Dan Frebel (12), who has routinely been the standout diver for the Spartan swim and dive team, made Florida State University his final choice on where he would attend college and dive at the collegiate level.

Florida State University is a division one NCAA school located in Tallahassee, Florida. Frebel received an athletic scholarship to dive at Florida State worth half the cost of out-of-state tuition at the university. The men's swimming and diving team at Florida State is a member of the Atlantic Coast Conference (ACC) and has a reputation of being a strong contender. The Florida State divers are also routinely successful in their domination of the ACC.

However, Florida State was not the only college that was after Frebel's services as one of the top divers in the country. Frebel was also contacted by and visited Penn State University, Indiana University, Purdue University, and the University of Miami of Ohio, all of which are division one schools.

"When I went to FSU, which was my second trip, I knew I wanted to go there; I had a great time," Frebel said. "Penn State and Purdue also wanted me and were calling about every week, but I chose FSU."

The weather also played an important role in the decision-making process for Frebel, who, like many others, enjoys the climate of Florida more than unpredictable weather of the other schools across the Midwest that he was considering.

Another reason for his decision to attend Florida State was the coaching that would be available to him and the future opportunities that Frebel hopes their good coaching will create.

"I am really looking forward to diving with my new coach, Patrick Jeffery, who is a two-time Olympian," Frebel said. "I think, with Patrick as my coach, I can become the best diver I can be, and maybe the best in the country. I think he will give me the best chance at an Olympic spot and he was the one who called me the most and sent me e-mails about every other day."

Jeffery graduated from the Ohio State University in 1988 with five national championships to his name in different diving events. He was also named NCAA Diver of the Year in 1988, when he won three diving events at the NCAA Championships. He was a finalist on the ten meter platform at the 1988 Seoul Olympics and the 1996 Atlanta Olympics. Also adding to his resume, Jeffery coached the 2000 U.S. Olympic team.

Frebel is also looking forward to new diving challenges at the collegiate level, such as diving on the ten meter platform, something that is not available to practice in the Fort Wayne area.

"I would like to make it to the NCAA Championships on the 10 meter platform my freshman year with only a couple months of training," Frebel said. "I think it would be great and show that I will have a bright future on the platform."

"I am very excited about being a Seminole," Frebel said. "I can't wait."

Boys basketball.1B • Winter Guard. 2A • Phoenix, Arizona. 8A • Wrestling .4B • Mailbox.4A

the Spartana

Volume 35 • Issue 8 • Homestead High School • 4310 Homestead Road, Fort Wayne, IN 46814 • February 11, 2005

Varsity Boys Basketball:

Turn to page 1B for coverage of latest games. Check out senior wrestling standouts on page 4B.

PARTY PROBLEMS

Citations, court appearances, consequences in store for students caught consuming alcohol at parties

Suhasini Bhargava
Co-Editor in Chief

The following scene seems characteristic of a stereotypical TV show or movie about high school students: While a student's parents are away for a particular weekend, the student decides to invite over a few friends. Eventually, the small gathering evolves into a "party" with all the trimmings—a house bustling with hundreds of teenagers, loud music, a parade of cars outside, and sometimes alcohol.

As suspected, the local police department hears of the party and arrives at the climactic moment to ruin the fun; a knock on the door reveals that the party has been busted. For some high school students, however, the previously mentioned scene is far from fantasy.

On December 17, 2005, a few students from this high school faced dire consequences after being caught engaging in underage drinking at a senior's winter break 'kick-off' party.

"We went over [to the party] during half-time of the basketball game," Cassandra Field* (12) said. "I didn't know there was going to be alcohol. I was with a couple of friends and I got thirsty so I got a drink without realizing that it was spiked."

Although students are aware of the ubiquitous presence of the party scene during their high school years, many are equally unaware of the aftermath of drinking at a party that is raided by the police.

According to Officer A.J. Barile of the Allen County Sheriff's Department, several legal consequences follow for those caught engaging in underage drinking. The police departments typically hear of parties from parents, teachers, or other citizens.

"When we get a tip, we get to the house and knock on the door," Barile said. "We ask for the homeowners, and it is usually a red flag if they're not home. Usually, kids will be flying out of the windows. If the parents aren't home and it's obvious that there is underage drinking happening, we will ask for the door to be opened for further investigation."

Upon busting a party, police officers first identify who the residents of the house are. If the presence of underage drinking is obvious, the officers test all who are present for alcohol consumption.

All consumers under the age of 18 are issued citations for under-age drinking and are required to appear in court with their parents. The citation counts as a misdemeanor but does not go on permanent records for minors. For those caught who are 18 and older, the citations remain on permanent records for future employers, college admissions, and criminal records.

Court fees cost anywhere from $50-$150, with possible additional fines assigned at the judge's discretion.

"When I was walking down the stairs to leave, the cops arrived," Field said. "They came in and basically had everybody breathalized. I got a ticket and I had to have my mom drive me home."

After receiving a citation, minors are required to appear in court with their parents to hear the judge's decision. Adults 18 and over may appear in court without their parents or legal guardians.

The homeowners of the household where the party is being held cannot be criminally charged unless they provided the alcohol.

"If adults are providing alcohol, they are said to be contributing to the delinquency of minor drinking and can get into trouble," Barile said. "Otherwise, they cannot be criminally involved. They can be involved civilly because they can be sued if a wreck were to occur."

photo/meg williams

Upon being caught with alcohol in their systems, juveniles cannot be sent to jail. Those 18 or older, however, may be arrested in certain situations. If party-goers are in possession of marijuana or other illegal drugs at the party, more severe consequences follow. Minors carrying marijuana are directed to the Juvenile Justice Center and adults face the possibility of being arrested.

The Allen County Sheriff's department experiences problems with party-goers most between the months of May and September.

"The worst experience I've had was hundreds of people showed up and the girl was actually glad to see the police," Barile said. "The furniture had been broken and the carpet had been ruined."

Before consuming alcohol at parties, students should be aware of legal consequences that follow when the party 'gets busted.'

"[After I was caught] I basically told my parents that I'm not going to another party this year." Field said. "I'm not going to drink anything at a party anymore because you have to be cautious with these things."

***Names have been changed to protect the identities of those individuals who were interviewed.**

Indiana state laws

.08 *legal blood alcohol concentration (BAC) limit*

legal age to purchase **21** *and consume alcohol*

18 *minimum age for ringing up alcohol at grocery stores*

School nominated for "Blue Ribbon" award

Christy Landrigan
Surplus Editor

Homestead has been nominated to receive national recognition for extraordinary performance according to the No Child Left Behind Act. Dr. Suellen Reed, Superintendent of Public Instruction, announced on December 14 that Homestead would be one of two high schools in Indiana nominated for the Blue Ribbon award, which recognizes schools that are either academically superior in their states or that demonstrate dramatic gains in student achievement. The awards have been given out annually to qualifying schools since 2003.

"The educators, students, and families in these school communities should be proud of this well-deserved recognition," Dr. Reed said in a press release. "These nominations are a national acknowledgement of their hard work and ongoing commitment to educational excellence."

> "The educators, students, and families in these school communities should be proud.
>
> Dr. Suellen Reed

When the announcement proclaiming the nomination was made at the end of a school day, many students and teachers dismissed it as insignificant; however, the prestige of the award is evident in the few number of schools being considered for the national award.

The other nominated high school from Indiana is Hamilton Southeastern High School, located in Fishers. Previous winners from Indiana have included Roncalli High School in Indianapolis, Saint Joseph's High School in South Bend, West Lafayette Junior/Senior High School in West Lafayette, Bishop Dwenger High School in Fort Wayne, Carmel High School in Carmel, and Cathedral High School in Indianapolis.

The program requires schools to meet one of two assessment criteria. It recognizes schools that have at least forty percent of their students from disadvantaged backgrounds that dramatically improve student performance in accordance with state assessment systems. Homestead did not fall into this category. The other criteria recognized schools that scored in the top ten percent on state assessments, as Homestead did.

The U.S. Department of Education determines how many schools each state may nominate based on the total number of students enrolled in kindergarten through twelfth grade and based on the number of schools in each state. Indiana was allotted eight nomination spots. Of the schools recommended to receive the award, at least one-third must have met the first criterion of having forty percent of students from disadvantaged backgrounds. The program allows both elementary and secondary schools to be recognized in the same year.

Completed applications for the award are due this month to the U.S. Department of Education. The 2005 national No Child Left Behind-Blue Ribbon Schools will be announced in fall of 2005. If Homestead is selected, principal Diane Moake and a teacher will be invited to Washington, D.C. to receive a plaque and flag signifying the school's status as a Blue Ribbon School.

School board approves NAND's random drug testing proposal

Dillon Kimmel
News Editor

On Tuesday, January 18, the Southwest Allen County school board unanimously passed NAND's drug testing proposal. NAND (No Alcohol No Drugs is a subset of the Education Foundation, and includes a random drug testing policy for school systems.

The proposal includes a non-invasive urine test that is randomly administered to all students in extra-curricular activities and those who drive to school. The tests will not be observed so the student's privacy is guarded. The tests are then sent to a lab where they are tested for various illegal drugs and alcohol.

Students are a number in a computer. The computer will randomly choose a number each week and school officials will match that number with a student. Because the lab randomly chooses numbers from a computer, students cannot be targeted by school officials unless they have been caught in the past. In that case, he is put in a pool for a year in which he may be tested any time.

The drug testing program will cost $510,000 over three years. After the three year "trial period," the school board members will look at the success rate of the drug testing and decide if they would like to adopt the program for permanent use. Each test will cost approximately $15. According to SACS social worker Anita Gross, this was the most economical one they could find.

> "there was no opposition at the board meeting in which the drug testing policy was passed.

In response to questions of liability issues, Gross said that the chance of false positives coming back is very slim. There is a certain cutoff line involved in identifying the tests as positive or negative. Therefore, it is highly unlikely that a false positive will come back. The chance of false negatives surfacing is much more likely.

The three year trial period is completely free for the Southwest Allen County school district due to NAND raising the required $510,000 to run the program for three years. On March 16, NAND members will hold a fundraiser for the random drug testing program, and they hope to raise the funds necessary to pay for the program's trial period.

Gross also expressed a need for parents to get involved. She said that parents can help by getting involved in the fundraising campaign. Also, she said it was important that parents support the program, and they themselves can offer to be in the program with their son or daughter if they would like to be.

SACS will also be hiring someone to help with the drug testing process. The new position will require the person to be a licensed counselor with experience in interacting with adolescents. The job description will require this individual to administer the drug tests, and provide counseling and education to students who have tested positive.

The school board members also requested that *the Spartana* report that there was no opposition at the board meeting in which the drug testing policy was passed. Only those in support of the program came to voice their opinions.

Music in Arizona: *Turn to page 8A for details about the Spartan Alliance.*

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Winterguard hosts competition for first time

Band director, guard instructor work for two months planning, organizing event

Laura Summers
Writer

On Saturday, January 29th, the Winterguard participated in the competition held in the gym.

The guard had been preparing for some time in order to be ready to perform at their first contest. At this competition, forty guards performed, two of which were in exhibition, in their specific class, which is based on ability rather than school population.

This competition was the school's very first home competition. Brad Wadkins, the band director, and Shane Hapner, the guard instructor, had been preparing for this day for two months.

"Overall, it was an extremely wonderful day; we received very positive feedback," Wadkins said.

This year, the winterguard's theme was "Candyland".For each competition, the theme remains the same, but the winner of the "game" changes each performance.

They have been preparing for winterguard since their practices for the Fiesta Bowl in December. They practice Mondays and Wednesdays from 6:30 to 9:00, Thursdays after school until 5:30, Saturdays without competitions from 8:00 to 4:00, and every day during seventh period.

"At our practices, we start off with a run of everything in the show we know," Katie Peterson (9) said. "Then we break off into groups that have the same work to learn new work and clean the old. For every move we have a certain count in the music that we're supposed to be at a certain angle. At the end, we do another run through. We have to set up and take down several props: three ramps, barrels, two trampolines, a tarp, a turn table, lollipops, and our flags (up to eight different ones)."

Hapner, the colorguard instructor, helps the girls better their skills. There are 24 members in winterguard. Twenty-one of those girls participated in fall guard and there are three others.

"Shane pushes everyone to do better," Peterson said. "It's hard to say what I think of him because he has a job where you have to be negative and correct people."

There are several different classes of guards that compete at these contests. These classes include B, AAA, AA, A, Open, and World. World is the most advanced class. Each group, however, does have an opportunity to move up classes until a certain point in the season.

Their competitors at this contest were Taylor, Carmel, Pike, and Lawrence North. The guard finished in fifth place at this contest.

"At our first competition last year, we finished fourth," Katie Policinski (10) said. "We have no reason to be discouraged because we were in this same position and we ended up placing second at state."

Six judges help determine the winner of these competitions. In judging, they look for equipment (flags, rifles, and sabers) movement along with ensemble analysis: unity, general effect, timing and penalties. A group receives a penalty if the members fail to get on the floor, do their show, and get off within nine minutes.

The contest needed about 100 volunteers to help work throughout the day, including parents and band and orchestra members.

Overall, the events of this Saturday were quite successful. Although the winterguard did not finish as strongly as they had hoped, they are excited for their season to progress and for their show to improve.

photokara wall

A member of the winterguard performs on January 29.

photokara wall

Members from Winter Guard help prepare the floor for the routine. Homestead hosted the competition for the first time.

Concerned students "band" together for area family

Dillon Kimmel
News Editor

This winter, a student is going beyond her call of duty to help a family in need. Dani Luttrell (11) is a close friend of the Fackler family of Fort Wayne. Their son, Matthew, has been diagnosed with cancer and his heart-wrenching story has caused her to step up in a unique way.

Matthew Fackler was diagnosed with Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia (A.L.L.) on November 27, 2000. After more than three years of rigorous chemotherapy, Fackler completed his treatments in January of 2004. Sadly, Fackler relapsed in late 2004, and is in the process of receiving another round of chemotherapy. Fackler needs a bone marrow transplant to save his life, and the Facklers' insurance will only cover a portion of the cost. The student body can support Fackler and his family during their financial struggle by giving a minimum donation of $3.00. With this gift, you will receive a blue bracelet, reading "Never Give Up"; the slogan that has withstood the tests and challenges of Fackler's life from his Cross Country career at St. Charles Middle School to the pain of his cancer treatment.

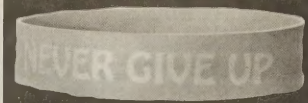
All proceeds from this fundraiser will go directly to Fackler and his family to help offset the many costs incurred during this strenuous healing process. Students and staff members can also support Fackler and his family by visiting www.caringbridge.org/in/matthewk and signing his guestbook.

If you have questions or wish to order, contact Luttrell through the Caring Bridge Website, by email at NeverGiveUpMatthew@comcast.net, or by telephone at 260-625-3206. The student body is encouraged to purchase and wear their "Never Give Up" bracelets to show their support and display their unity and care for Fackler and the 5,200 new cases of leukemia each year.

The following is an excerpt from Nancy Fackler, Matthew's mother's, online journal. She updates it each day.

Tuesday, February 1 2005:

"They started his chemotherapy at 9pm. Around 9:30, he began to shake and jerk his arms around. I asked him if he was ok and he looked me in the eye and said 'Mom, I'm dying.' I took his hand and told him he was not dying and that Mom was right here to be sure of that. He again said 'Mom, I'm dying and I can't breathe.' I hit the nurse button and flew from the room to get a nurse. I ran to the nurse's station yelling 'Matthew can't breathe.' Nurses flew from everywhere and a doctor was running also. They all crowded into his room, listened to his heart, lungs, and checked his BP (blood pressure) and O2 (oxygen) stats. I have never been so scared in my life.... Finally everything calmed down and the doctor ordered him hooked up to a monitor for the night."



A "Never Give Up" bracelet is pictured above. Along with several students, Dani Luttrell (11) is selling these bracelets to help pay for a critical surgery for Matthew Fackler. She has already sold 1,000 and is presently selling a second shipment of 5,000. She is asking for a minimum donation of $3.00 per band.

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Annual dance marathon allows students to raise funds for athletic boosters club

Event comprises dancing, three-on-three basketball

Kelly Childs
Writer

Being held in a confined space, unable to leave for twenty-four hours sounds like torture, right? Ask the participants of the dance marathon and you might receive a different answer.

Each year, the school's athletic booster club holds its main fund raising event to help off-set costs for the sixty teams that the club supports financially.

This year, the dance marathon will begin at 8:00 p.m. on Friday, February 25, and will conclude at 8:00 p.m. on Saturday, the 26th. The first four hours consist of an all school dance that any student enrolled at this school may attend. Last year, many students took advantage of this opportunity. The proceeds from this portion of the Dance Marathon also benefits the Athletic Boosters. The three-on-three basketball tournament will also be held at this time. After midnight, only the dance marathon participants will be left to sweat out twenty more hours of dancing, games, and activities.

To be a dancer or basketball player in the marathon, a student must first find a partner and then raise money together. The minimum required amount to be raised is $300 for a dancer, and $200 for a basketball player. This minimum requirement does not stop most participants though. There is a contest held to see who can raise the most money. Last year Alli Matheis (12) and Sally Shinabarger (12) came in first, raising a grand total of $1,900 for the athletic department. The contest will once again be held this year.

The plans for this year's marathon include two hip-hop classes, games, and contests. Although all the usual marathon activities will be held, there is a new surprise this year. A two-year lease on a brand new Saturn will be given away in a raffle.

"I anticipate a lot of fun this year, but with a little different twist," athletic booster club president Anne Matheis said. "The new car will add a lot of excitement."

Last year's count of seventy-four dancers who finished, along with ten basketball teams who participated, leaves a promising outcome for this year. For twenty-three years, the dance marathon has been successfully providing funding for athletics at school, as well as a good time for students. They look to continue the tradition of excellence.

"It is fabulous, not just from a financial standpoint, but also from the participation from the student body as they come together," Matheis said. "It is success on a lot of different levels."

Decisions made for new middle school

The school will retain its name as the Woodside Warriors, but school officials are in the process of picking a new Warrior to be their mascot.

Woodside Middle School's school colors will be changed to red, vegas gold, and white.

School will start at 7:50 a.m. next year because of the distance between the high school and middle school buildings.

Decisions made at the school board meeting on January 18, 2004.

Winter Guard. 2A • "Open Container Policy". 5A • Final Exams. 6A • Wells Scholars. 7A •
you are here ▲

Show choirs' season begins with two difficult competitions

Elite, Class Royale competed in Northrop Classic, traveled to Zionsville on February 5

Austin Hetrick
Writer

On Saturday, January fifteenth, the school's show choirs and back-up band performed at the Northrop Show Choir Invitational, and last Saturday performed at the Zionsville Invitational in southern Indiana. At Northrop, Class Royale finished behind Pike High School and Elite finished fourth. Of the three individual awards given out that night, Anonymous Blue, the back-up band for both groups, won Best Combo award, and Class Royale took Best Visuals (choreography.) Similarly, at Zionsville, Class Royale took second, and Elite third behind two Center Grove High School choirs.

Northrop's competition was a difficult one, but most members were pleased with the results. Early in the morning, the choir and band members arrived at Northrop High School in Fort Wayne and began to prepare for their first competition. Elite performed their show against the other all-girl groups, including choirs from across the state such as Pike High School and Columbia City High School. Elite performed at 9:00 a.m. and waited anxiously throughout the day for the results.

Class Royale performed in the late afternoon and most members thought the performance was above average. The choirs performed their complete shows at Northrop for only the third time for an audience. Some members of the choirs worried that the group would not be ready for competition, but were pleasantly surprised by the rankings the choirs received following the afternoon show.

Near 5:00 p.m., awards were handed out, with Anonymous Blue (the backup band), a group of twenty members under the direction of Greg Veigh, taking top honors. The Northrop competition (unlike some of those which the choirs will perform at) did not count the band's scores as a part of the show choir, a fact that may have altered the results of the competition in Class Royale's and Elite's favor had it been reversed. Trevor Alt (11) of Class Royale and Paola Montesino (12) of Elite were awarded with the Outstanding Performer prize for their groups.

Elite's competition ended at the first award ceremony, where they received a fourth place finish. Class Royale was chosen to perform again as part of the final round of competition in the evening show. The group drew first, and hurried back to their room to prepare.

As the evening drew on, Class Royale performed their show and had an "excellent performance" according to Andrew Slayton (10).

Class Royale was awarded second place behind Pike High School. Most members were pleased with their first effort, especially with the many difficulties they had overcome in the past weeks and months.

More recently, Elite and Class Royale participated in the first annual Zionsville Showcase on Saturday, February fifth. Elite took third in the female choir competition, and Class Royale finished second in the mixed choir competition. Center Grove High School's choirs finished first in both categories, however Anonymous Blue once again proved their dominance by taking caption awards for best band in both mixed and female choirs.

The show choir's toughest competition all season awaits them next weekend when they travel to Dekalb High School. The choirs and band will practice throughout this week to prepare.

photos/zach hetrick

» Jaime Blosser (12) and Matt Anderson (12) respond to the high marks the choir received for their performance. >> Bliss Cook (12) performs with Class Royale.

Global Briefs

Florida Lottery

The winner of the Florida Lottery drawing for 60 million dollars, Robert Swofford, did not claim his winnings until he finished another part of his life, his divorce. While his wife will receive over 6 million dollars, Swofford plans to retire from his career as a forklift driver and begin to collect cars.

Andrea Yates

The conviction of Andrea Yates, a mother serving a life sentence for drowning three of her five children in her bathtub, has been overturned. In her trial in 2002, psychiatrist Park Dietz discussed an episode of NBC's "Law & Order" which never aired. It is unclear what this false testimony will lead to.

iPod

Thomas Slattery is suing Apple for forcing him to buy an iPod. After purchasing several songs on iTunes, he found that the track could only be used on an iPod. He is claiming that this is an attempt of Apple to form a monopoly. iTunes has 70 percent of the market share, and the iPod is the most popular mp3 player. Apple has not commented on the lawsuit.

Tsunami

The most powerful earthquake in 40 years took place under the Indian Ocean, leading to massive tsunamis killing more than 250,000 people in 10 countries. In an attempt to prevent disease and help rebuild the region, countries from all over the world have now pledged over 3 billion dollars. The top donors include Australia, Germany, Japan, and the United States.

Winter Storm

A massive winter storm effected states all the way from Colorado up into New England. Nebraska received 3 feet of snow, and areas across the Midwest received a great deal of freezing rain and sleet, leading to many power outages. Temperature reached as low as 43 below zero in Embarrass, Minnesota.

People's Choice Awards

At the People's Choice Awards, "Fahrenheit 9/11", directed by Michael Moore won the favorite movie category. Other winners included "Passion of the Christ" winning favorite drama and Shrek 2 winning favorite comedy, favorite sequel, and favorite animated movie.

Australian Open

The Australian Open, tennis's first of four major grand slams this year, began on January 17, and lasted until the 25th. The season opening event is home to Australian, Lleyton Hewitt (3). Hewitt faced off against US Open champion Andy Roddick (USA) in the semifinals. Hewitt won the match and faced off against Marat Safin (Rus-4), who won the match. On the women's side, multiple slam winner Serena Williams (USA) defeated Wimbledon champ Maria Sharapova (RUS - 4) in a semi final match. Williams faced Lindsey Davenport (USA - 1) in the final, with the title going to Williams.

Baseball Free Agents

Carlos Beltran, one of the biggest names in baseball free agency, signed a contract with the New York Mets. Also, Pedro Martinez also signed by the Mets. Randy Johnson was acquired by the New York Yankees.

College Basketball

The college basketball season is well in to swing. Illinois is #1 in the country and have a 19-0 record. The Duke Blue Devils and Boston College are the only other unbeaten teams left in the nation. In Women's basketball, Duke's 16-game winning streak was ended on January 24 by North Carolina.

Iraqi Election

Sunday, January 30 marked the first time in 50 years that Iraqi citizens were able to vote in a Presidential election. No vehicles were allowed on the roads the day of the election, so elderly citizens were carried to the polls in order to cast their votes. Unfortunately, nine suicide bombers killed 35 innocent voters, including 11 British military officers. However, no other widespread violence occurred, much to the surprise of the US army.

briefs/jim katz

photos/zach hetrick

photo/hunter hall

A fortnight of festivals

French Week

Lee Farnsworth
Intern Writer

A change was noticed in the hallways during the week of January 31, 2005. Students who were usually found seated on ramps leading down to the commons area or in back hallways waiting for a class to begin were found to have migrated. They were seen in the cafeteria commons, gathered around an area invisible due to the mass of bodies. Was there a fight? No, not a fight: just some sugary candies sold for a few days every year. It was French Week, and Bon Bons were ready to be sold.

"Kids here just love Bon Bons," French club co-sponsor Susan Ferkel said. "I've been selling Bon Bons for years and kids just can't get enough of them."

In addition to Bon Bon sales on Thursday and Friday, there were croissants and apple juice for sale before school on Monday and Tuesday. Thursday brought another student favorite, a demonstration of French cooking by former pastry chef and French teacher Gregory Fryzel.

Fryzel demonstrated such dishes as cream puffs and apple tarts.Throughout the week, the students of the French Club sold Mardi Gras beads for fifty cents in conjunction with the Fat Tuesday celebration on February 8. Throughout the week, students who supported the French Club had their names put into a raffle which gave away several prizes such as gift certificates to Jefferson Pointe.

"We (the French Club) are very happy to offer students so many chances to get involved in the festivities," Ferkel said. "All of the activities are very well attended; we're always pleased with the way they turn out."

In addition to promoting French language and culture, the week also provided the club with much-needed money to help finance trips to Chicago or some other city. The trip would be a well-earned reward for Ferkel as well as the students in the French Club. Ferkel has been working for a long time in order to coordinate and organize the event. Students have also been working hard making signs as well as a short expository video which was seen on last Friday's announcements. French Week represents a major effort on the part of both the sponsors and the members.

"I work to make sure everything is coordinated and organized," Ferkel said. "But it's really the kids who do the majority of the work. They're the ones who make French week a success."

French week was able to enhance student awareness of the prominence of French culture and language in their own lives, while still being appealing and enjoyable. The week was able to enlighten the student body about the culture and the language to take a bit of the foreignness out of French language.

>> Mardi Gras beads, pictured on the right, were sold during French Week.

Latin Week

Laura Summers
Writer

January 23, 2005 was declared the first day of Latin Week. Each year the State Latin Organization sets aside one week toward the end of January that is dedicated to Latin. The Junior Classical League chapter at school, along with all other Indiana schools with a JCL, celebrated throughout the week until January 29.

The school chapter planned events throughout the week for the occasion. Every day of the week was assigned a characteristic to follow. Tuesday was club tee-shirt day. Wednesday was purple and gold day, for the colors of JCL. Thursday was Latin phrase tee-shirt day and Friday was toga day. JCL members also sold "fruit from the boot." These were no sugar added, grape flavored, straight from Italy fruit bites. Last year they sold these treats as well.

"We didn't make any money, but a few people really loved them, so we'll sell them again," JCL sponsor Kathy Adair said.

In addition to planning activities for the week, JCL also planned to spread the celebration around Aboite. Andrew Schroeder (10) created Latin bookmarks to be given away at the library and Caitlin Ryan (10) designed placemats to put at Pizza Hut. A coloring contest was held for elementary students in third through fifth grade.

"In other years, all elementary school students could participate, but we found the pictures to be too small and difficult for the younger ones," Adair said.

The coloring picture this year was based on the mythological story of "Cupid and Psyche." The pictures were due on the twenty-first and were then judged by the JCL members. On the twelfth of February, the winners will be announced at Barnes and Nobles. Each winner receives a gift bag with two mythological books in it.

The children can stay and watch a play put on by the JCL students. After the play, the children can enjoy refreshments. In the past, the JCL students have only performed their play at Barnes and Nobles, but this year they hope to expand to the library and Mitchell Books as well.

Entire world involved with tsunami relief

Austin Hetrick
Writer

In recent weeks there has been an international outpouring of emotion and funds toward the decimated nations and citizens of Southeast Asia.

All across America, from the White House, where President Bush has promised millions in aid even while the nation is recovering from one of the worst economic depressions in American history, to the rural towns in the Midwest, Americans everywhere are reaching out in international goodwill and with a charity which does this country's much battered image, good.

In Fort Wayne, and in Southwest Allen County, relief is being brought to schools and to businesses. Southwest Allen County organized its own relief efforts to "help make a difference in the lives of people affected by this tragedy," according to the flyer handed out to students.

Students were asked to help aid the tsunami victims by donating money during class or their lunch periods. The drive ended on Monday, January 24, and all funds were sent to UNICEF, or the United Nations Children's Fund.

The fund will send all donations to aid orphans (of whom there are an estimated 1.5 million in the affected countries) and also families struggling for sanitation, education, and basic needs.

The tsunami's toll (dead and those missing) is currently nearing 250,000 in Indonesia alone, and the fallout from the magnitude 9.0 quake that sparked the tsunami continues to affect Southeast Asia.

Some local families were affected by the disaster, Danielle Gauthier (10), had close friends whose family was nearly overwhelmed by the waves, and other students themselves were detained by the disaster. Neil Merchant (10) was in India at the time of the disaster visiting family.

"The Tsunami didn't affect me too much personally, but I noticed the people of India and how they stood together to help those in need," Merchant said. "Not too many areas of India were hit by the waves (mostly the southeastern area near Singapore), but there were all sorts of charities to raise money for Tsunami victims, as well as telephone numbers to inquire on victims and addresses to send money or clothes or other items."

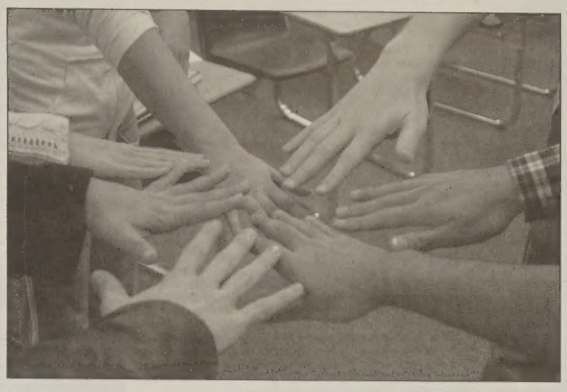
From Fort Wayne and Southwest Allen County, to the most powerful places in America, the nation is reaching out towards those in need, and students and teachers across the district are participating.

Winter Guard. 2A • Show Choir. 3A • Open Container Policy. 5A • Final Exams Schedule. 6A •
you are here ▲

He achieved freedom; *we* must preserve it

Martin Luther King's accomplishments should be honored; not berated on white-supremacy websites

Austin Hetrick
Writer



As I began to research Martin Luther King Jr. Day for an article in this paper, I came across an interesting website. I entered martinlutherking.org into the web address; and a site appeared, that on first inspection was as it was advertised in its opening paragraph: "The truth about Martin Luther King: Includes historical trivia, articles and pictures. A valuable resource for teachers and students alike."

But as I scanned the page quickly, I noticed a link that seemed odd for a site dedicated to providing information on Dr. King. It read, "Why the King holiday should be repealed." The link carried me to an essay by "The Creativity Movement," which in its opening paragraphs establishes that there is "another side to Doctor King's life…[and the author] challenges everything [the reader] has been taught about King's love of people and life, about his nonviolent tactics, and about his beliefs and ethics."

In the next 65 pages, the author, (who remains anonymous throughout) writes with intelligence and with what appears to be logic, about the "secret side" of Martin Luther King. Having read merely the first page, I began to realize that this website could not be sponsored by the family of Martin Luther King Jr., and I returned to the homepage in an attempt to find those responsible. On further investigation, I discovered that the entire site was filled with racist, and even anti-Semitic sentiment. Links directed students to flyers entitled "The Beast as Saint: Martin Luther King Day." Sections are devoted to quotes of hatred for African Americans, Jews and every other minority group. Luckily enough, however, at the bottom of the page there was a link to "stormfront" which hosted the site. After clicking on that link, I found myself staring into the insignia of "White Pride, World Wide." I was shocked, sickened, and angry.

It wasn't enough that the man had died for his belief in Civil Rights; these individuals were after his legacy. The most prominent figure of the struggle for Civil Rights was of course an obvious target of hate and smear, and even more so once he became a martyr to his cause. Dr. King's fight for equality may have ended on the surface, but even in the 21st century white supremacists lurk beneath the placid waters of America. But regardless of the efforts of racists, on January 15th each year, the world recognizes King's sacrifice, and Americans remember a hero.

According to the King Center, the official memorial to Dr. King, "Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was a vital figure of the modern era. His lectures and dialogues stirred the concern and sparked the conscience of a generation. The movements and marches he led brought significant changes in the fabric of American life through his courage and selfless devotion. This devotion gave direction to thirteen years of civil rights activities. His charismatic leadership inspired men and women, young and old, in this nation and around the world."

African Americans are now guaranteed every right that whites are, and this equality stands as a tribute to King's dedication throughout his life. But on the 15th of January, Americans must not forget that those who could return to inequality and to prejudice linger all around us. The battle for equality that started even prior to the 1960s has not been won. The world remains an imperfect place; from Martin Luther King Jr. we must learn that intolerance will end, but we should also be reminded that although King is dead, sadly, the battle for equality in America is not.

Austin Hetrick is a sophomore and works as a writer for the Spartana. *The views and opinions expressed in this column do not necessarily represent those of* the Spartana *or of its staff.*

Wisdom from Dr. King Jr.

Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere.

"I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin, but by the content of their character.

Airline security policies inconsistent in regards to carrying weapons

Jim Katz
Writer

Ever since the September 11th hijackings, the government has cracked down on airport security. The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and the Transportation Safety Administration (TSA) have been working to eliminate the threat of terrorism in our airports. While I respect their intentions, recently I have had my doubts about how effectively those organizations have been functioning.

While traveling recently, I noticed a room in several airports that concerned me. It was a room full of people smoking pipes, cigars, and cigarettes. At first I was happy that the room was there to stop people from blowing smoke in my face. Then I realized that these "smoking rooms" were beyond our newly revised and upgraded airport security. People need matches or lighters to smoke, and clearly they must be allowed passed security if people are smoking passed security. Why do people need to smoke beyond security? Did we learn anything from the shoe-bomber? I understand that people are addicted, but it is not the government's job to endanger the lives of thousands of people just to allow a few people to feed their addiction. The government does make a great deal of money on the sale of tobacco products, so it makes me suspicious.

These concerns led me to look further into airport security regulations, especially those relating to what you can and cannot bring onto a plane. Some of the prohibited items should clearly be banned. These include automatic weapons, axes, box cutters (used in the 9/11 hijackings), bull whips, dynamite, knives, and many types of guns. There are also many other items on the list that are not as obvious but still make sense as dangerous items.

Two prohibited items that bothered me were "toy transformer robots (this toy forms a toy gun)" and "toy weapons." The idea seems to make sense. If it looks like a gun, it is not allowed. Unfortunately, like many restricted items, this idea can be taken too far.

In 2002, the TSA staff displayed a prime example of such absurdity. A British woman, Judy Powell had bought a GI Joe as a gift while in Las Vegas. Assuming that there would no problems, she packed the toy in her carry-on luggage. When she went through security, the TSA officials searched the bag and found the toy. Rather than allowing her to pass through without a problem, the TSA officials treated the clearly harmless toy as a deadly weapon. The GI Joe rifle was confiscated and Powell was forced to put the toy in her checked bag to be placed in the aircraft's hold. Instead of apologizing for the ridiculous incident, a representative from the airport said "we have instructions to confiscate anything that looks like a weapon or a replica, "and "if GI Joe was carrying a replica then it had to be taken from him." If a two-inch toy gun is a threat, how can we know where to draw the line?

Many of the TSA regulations seem very hypocritical; ski poles, not allowed; fishing poles made of the same material, allowed; tiny metal scissors with a pointy end, not allowed; foot long metal knitting needles, allowed. Road flares and flare guns are not allowed in either carry-on or checked luggage. Most types of guns and ammunition are allowed in checked baggage. Maybe I am reading too much into that, but perhaps the NRA used its influence to protect the rights of gun owners. "Gun lighters", which have been interpreted as lighters that have a flame of at least two to three inches long, and strike anywhere matches are not allowed. Most types of lighters and other types of matches are allowed. While the banned items may be most dangerous, the others are perfectly capable of lighting a fuse or even converting a can of aerosol hairspray (allowed) into a deadly weapon.

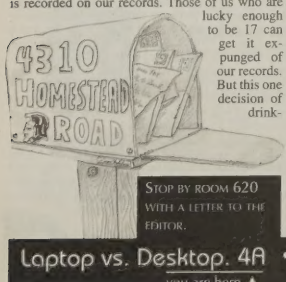
I am not suggesting that anything that could hypothetically be turned into a weapon should be banned from airports. That proposal would require far too many resources, and would divert the focus from the real problems. TSA officials do have the right to not allow items if they raise suspicion, even if those items are not on the banned list. I want this to be clear: I am glad that we have greatly increased the level of security in our airports. All I am asking for is a logical and consistent policy as to what is and isn't allowed in airports and on airplanes. That continuity would make me feel more secure.

Jim Katz is a junior and works as a writer for the Spartana. *The views and opinions expressed in this column do not necessarily represent those of* the Spartana *or of its staff.*

Student reflects on consequences after being caught 'partying' by police

As most of you have heard through the gossip-chain, on the first day of winter break a party was busted by the cops. This is not a piece on how one should throw a party, but rather a piece on how one dumb decision will change and affect your life. Although I have been "partying" for a while, this was the first time I have ever been caught by the cops. Generally, I with many others, would run away, but this time I was unlucky enough to not be able to. After "partying" for a few years, this is the first time I have realized I did wrong.

We must remember that just one bad decision can affect the rest of our lives. Everything we do is recorded on our records. Those of us who are lucky enough to be 17 can get it expunged of our records. But this one decision of drinking affects everything: scholarships, permanent records, colleges, and jobs.



Stop by room 620 with a letter to the editor.

For many of the seniors, college is a big deal. All of us put down our social security numbers on our applications. Some colleges do run background checks on their applicants. Seeing something such as minor consumption of alcohol can affect our chances of getting into college. Many colleges do hold a clause that they can deny you if the institution doesn't see you fit; minor consumption of alcohol may qualify you as unfit.

Also closely related to college admission are scholarships. Obtaining scholarships is already hard enough with their requirements, having something on your record can make it impossible.

Our permanent records are definitely affected. As I mentioned above, minors are able to get their records expunged. Those who are unlucky and get caught as adults have it stuck on their records, but can be removed under special circumstances. If you are over the age of 18 and are caught consuming alcohol you will, at the minimum, have to take an alcohol class. In extreme circumstances, they can be sent to jail.

Our permanent records directly affect our chances of getting jobs. If you have been caught more than once, then a criminal case can follow. If that happens you must, on every job application, state that you have been convicted of a crime. Although some jobs do say being convicted of crime doesn't necessarily disqualify you from being able to get a job, it doesn't work in your favor.

Although some of these reactions to our one action may happen in the long future, the immediate reaction of your parents is unbearable. My parent did not yell at me or punish me. They said that I was grounded for a long time, but that didn't last long. But, I could see that my parents were thoroughly disappointed in my actions. In some cases the disappointments are worse than punishments.

See related story on page 1A

Everyone's situations are different, but my viewpoint on partying has changed since this experience.

The author of this letter to the editor wishes to remain anonymous. The letter was submitted to the Spartana *by the author. The views and opinions expressed in this letter do not necessarily represent those of* the Spartana *or of its staff.*

Desktops, laptops equally beneficial for student use

Aspects of both systems should be examined before purchase

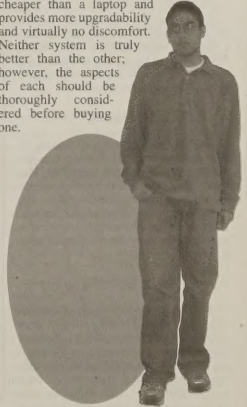
Neil Shah
Writer

With computer technology growing at the incredibly fast rate that it has been in the recent decade, a computer has become a necessity when it comes to completing schoolwork. Furthermore, teachers regularly ask their students if they have internet access at home, and assignments and homework are starting to become available online. At the college level, however, a computer is even more necessary. In classes at some universities, full tests and final examinations can be taken online and the results emailed to the student within minutes. Although the vast majority of colleges provide computer labs for their students with 24/7 online access, if the student's family or the student himself has the financial capability to purchase a personal computer, the convenience afforded to the student is substantial. Some universities even include the cost of a personal computer or laptop (or "notebook") computer in the college fees because they realize the importance of each student having a computer. The decision, therefore, lies between a laptop and a desktop computer, which each have significant benefits and restrictions that should be considered before making a big purchase like this one.

A laptop provides the most convenience of the two. One can enjoy working on the computer from his bed, in the library, or at his friend's place all on the same computer with the same files and programs that he is used to. Furthermore, with wireless networking capabilities that are quickly becoming the networking standard, one can even get online from any location in his room or even any location on campus as many universities are becoming fully wireless. Also with a laptop, a student can enjoy DVD movies (since DVD-ROM drives are the standard drives on almost all low-end notebook computers) anywhere he goes, like when he travels. The strongest argument to be made for a laptop is that it provides mobility and convenience that a desktop does not. It is severely limited, however, in its ability to be upgraded.

A desktop provides much more bang for the student's buck. A laptop can easily cost 50% more than a similarly configured desktop. Desktops are also more flexible when considering upgrades and replacing internal parts – all the internal parts of a laptop are integrated, severely limiting upgradability. This reason alone usually drives intense gamers to purchase desktops, since video cards are improving quickly and cutting edge games similarly advance quickly to make even one-year-old video cards obsolete, while video cards in laptops are sometimes irreplaceable. Also, some people look to replace their computer's processor to keep up with speed-intensive programs. Replacing a laptop's processor usually is, if not impossible, significantly difficult. In addition, desktops do not heat up like laptops do – after periods of continuous use, laptops often heat up and become uncomfortable. New laptop processors offered by Intel called the Pentium M series offer less power usage, which translates into less heat and more battery life. These processors, however, cost significantly more than other laptop processors, and are also much slower than its older counterparts. For example, the fastest Pentium M processor available right now has a clock speed of about 2.10 gigahertz (GHz), while the fastest mobile Pentium 4 (the comparable, older laptop processor) has a clock speed of about 3.33 GHz.

The choice between a desktop and a laptop is not an easy one. One must decide which features and aspects he values over others, since the necessity of both a computer and online access to the 21st century college student cannot be ignored. A notebook computer provides portability and convenience and is usually the better choice for a student who is not looking to run performance intensive applications. A desktop, however, is usually cheaper than a laptop and provides more upgradability and virtually no discomfort. Neither system is truly better than the other; however, the aspects of each should be thoroughly considered before buying one.



Neil Shah is a senior and works as a writer for the Spartana. *The views and opinions expressed in this column do not necessarily represent those of* the Spartana *or of its staff.*

Are HHS students brats? Do they get everything that they want

The editorial board discusses the validity of students' reputations as rich, bratty snobs from Aboite township

Suhasini Bhargava ~ Co-Editor in chief

After interacting with students from other schools in Fort Wayne at show choir competitions, speech meets, and while volunteering at a local hospital, I have been told that students from Homestead are "rich snobs."

The question that arises with the "rich snob" image that students have is whether the image is an accurate reflection of the student body. Undoubtedly, the average student in Aboite Township is "rich" in comparison to the average student at a school in the Fort Wayne Community Schools (FWCS) district.

This judgment can be based on statistics provided by the Indiana Department of Education's website. According to the website, 55% of students from South Side High School qualify for free meals at lunch, and another 9% qualify for reduced meals. Another high school in FWCS, Elmhurst High School, has the following statistics on free/reduced meals: 41% qualify for free meals, and 12% qualify for reduced meals. On the other hand, only 4% of all students qualified for free meals at Homestead High School. 2% of students from this school are eligible for reduced meals. These statistics were based on data from the 2004-05 school year.

Additionally, a glance at the senior parking lot reveals that many students drive moderately expensive to expensive vehicles to school. This example adds to evidence suggesting that students at Homestead are fairly wealthy.

Relatively speaking, the student body can be classified as "rich" when compared to our peers in other local high schools. The "snob" image, however, is a negative and untruthful stereotype about students who attend this school. Although students have certain financial advantages, most do not flaunt their money or their upper-middle socio-economic class standing.

Therefore, when answering the question "is the 'rich snob' image of Homestead students an accurate one?, one can see that although students are privileged, their behaviors and actions do not necessarily reflect a snobby attitude.

Christy Landrigan ~ Surplus Editor

When I moved to Southwest Allen County, I was shocked at two things: how friendly everyone was and how well the students could lie. I never noticed any sort of nastiness among the students. Of course, there were eccentric students who were unaware of their status as outcasts, but even these students were treated nicely, with attitudes of removed mirth instead of malice.

Now, after being in the school system for five years, I observe other defining characteristics of the students in our district. When we began to realize that money had a lot to do with life, the niceness changed. We were still polite, but now, we are a bunch of spoiled, rich brats.

The problem is that no one seems to care. The self-absorption evident in just walking down the halls is disgusting. I know groups of friends who have in common nothing but the size of their egos.

From the kid who scoffs at the idea of being "middle class" to the girl who frequently volunteers her father's hourly rate for legal advice, I am tired of students' pretentiousness. Your father's hourly rate makes you no better than anyone else, no matter what you like to think. And, thank you, I realize that I might be "missing out on the greatest time I would ever have in high school," but I do not have a spare three thousand dollars of loose change lying around the house for a five day trip where you will undoubtedly encourage me to spend even more money that I do not have.

While I have college to pay for, other students get jobs to feed their spending habits on drinking, drugs, and material goods. A college education is a luxury that most students seem to take for granted.

The main reason I am looking forward to college is so that I can meet real people with real problems instead of dealing with rich brats who create their own and then complain about them.

Students' inflated self-importance might be typical of teenagers in general, but I know no one who could compete with the egos here.

Dillon Kimmel ~ News Editor

"They're all rich snobs."

"They've got way too much 'stuff.'"

"They don't know a world different from their cozy houses and expensive cars."

"They think they are so much better than the rest of us."

It's no mystery that many perceive students from our school in this manner. It seems wherever I go, that's the reaction I get from people when I explain to them where I go to school. It bothers me, yes, but I understand where the stereotype has come from.

We are well off, and we have many possessions that other kids our age don't have the money to afford. We live in nice houses, and most of us can afford a nice car. We're lucky. We're lucky that our parents have high-paying jobs, and that we've been blessed in more ways than acknowledge and are thankful for. I think we definitely take for granted what we have, and we probably assume that others have similar advantages as we do.

I do not believe, though, that we are the rich snobs that most people think we are. I think we innocently assume others have the same benefits as we when that is not true. We may be a little naive or nearsighted because we have never experienced a life without many material possessions, but I do not believe we intentionally throw our fortune in others' faces. I'm sorry if people take it the wrong way when I talk about my life. I don't mean to cause resent. I certainly am not sorry for the life I have, but I am sorry that people take it the wrong way. It's hard for suburban kids, though, to understand life outside our comfortable niche.

Matt Anderson ~ Sports Editor

Any school district that is mainly composed of generously affluent families that have the privilege to live comfortably will be labeled snobby or spoiled. Period.

For the most part Homestead is not a stuck-up school; we may have expensive clothes and gadgets, but most do not flaunt them. However, there are some in the school that do feel it necessary to show their spoiled roots, and leave bad tastes in the mouth of others when it comes to Homestead's student body.

It is because of this minority of students that feel they are above the rest of us that Homestead is considered snob central. Southwest Allen County is not the only victim of these group's labels, though. For example I have heard many rurally based school's student bodies called hicks just because a few may have been a little "farm" looking.

Unfortunately, for those schools and our own, the damage has been done, and we will basically have to live with the stereotypes placed upon us; not unlike first impressions, stereotypes are often difficult to change.

Even if our school system suddenly had an economic drought and our student body fell down a couple of notches on the money scale, we would still be viewed as snobs because of prior transgressions, and past beliefs that will continue to be passed on. The area high schools as a whole do not interact enough for ideas previously thought to be true to be changed quickly; plus, every time we have one student act less than amiable while around other school's students, we instantly get lumped back into the category of snobs.

So, even though we are not a school filled with spoiled brats, I believe we have just enough to spoil Homestead's image for everyone.

Josh Zurawski ~ Co-Editor in chief

Rich and snobby?
Homestead kids?
Not really.

Kids from other schools have such a negative connotation for Homestead students because - like how all stereotypes are formed – the most outspoken kids are rich and snobby.

While there are students who drive ridiculous cars, live in ridiculous houses, and take ridiculous vacations - there are just as many who drive beaters (or can't afford a car), live in the average house, and don't take vacations. The rich kids exist, and they stand out. I could throw names out there, but that's unnecessary. If you attend this school you know who the rich ones are because most of them make a big deal of it.

Many kids from Homestead wear nice clothes. Clothes are merely a means of expression, but that doesn't necessarily make a person snobby. Unfortunately, some kids wear nice clothes and make a big fuss about those who can't afford a ridiculous wardrobe. These kids only make the stereotypes worse.

There are those students though who could afford expensive clothes, but choose to wear random t-shirts and sweat pants because they're only concerned with being as comfortable as possible. The kids who under dress do not negate the kids who flaunt their nice clothes because they go unnoticed.

Another Homestead stereotype is that we all drive really expensive cars. Mercedes, BMW, Infiniti, and other assorted expensive imports are seen in our parking lots. It is mind boggling to see a sixteen year old drive a $40,000 car. More common than those expensive cars are beaters. The majority of students drive cars valued at under $10,000.

Unfortunately for Homestead, its students will always be brats, even if they don't act the part.

School administration should amend "open container" policy for upcoming school years

Keeping into account medical research and the passage of random drug testing, the school administration should consider revising the "open container" policy for the 2005-06 school year.

According the student/parent handbook, "Open drink containers are prohibited throughout the building, from 7:30 a.m. to 2:15 a.m. Students may bring appropriate beverages in unopened containers to be consumed at lunch in the cafeteria and cafeteria commons." This policy should be changed to allow students to carry water in clear containers for consumption during the school day.

Possible reasons for the enforcement of the "open container" policy during present day include the possibility of students mixing in alcohol into open containers and the possibility of ruining carpet if sweetened beverages were to spill. If, however, carrying water in clear containers were to be allowed, students would enjoy the privilege of remaining hydrated throughout the school day. The transparency of the container would serve as a check on this privilege because teachers and administrators would be able to detect if students were carrying beverages other than water. Allowing only water to be carried would eliminate the possibility of ruining carpet if drinks were to spill.

Random drug testing will partially aid in preventing students from carrying clear alcohol in their "water containers." Because the drug tests measure alcohol levels, the threat of testing positive for alcohol will prevent some students from choosing to bring alcohol instead of water in their open containers.

Medical professionals agree that teenagers should consume 64 ounces of fluid per day to maintain a healthy lifestyle. For students, this goal would become easier to achieve if they were allowed the opportunity to consume large amounts of water during the school day. Although drinking fountains are accessible during passing periods, the convenience of carrying a water bottle surpasses the use of water fountains.

Although some students may abuse this privilege if the policy were to be amended, students tend to abuse most privileges offered at this school. For example, students manipulate the dress code policy and they use each other's lockers despite the ban against sharing lockers. Bad decisions made by some students should not penalize the entire student body.

Basically, the school administration should strongly consider amending the "open container" policy for upcoming school years. Allowing students to carry water in clear containers will not only increase convenience for students, but also allow them to lead healthier lifestyles. **Editorial Board Vote: 5 for, 0 against.**

Archive Digital View

Should final exams be held before or after winter break?

cartoon/evan childers

Finals should be held prior to vacation to allow 'break' from work

Jim Katz
Writer

Over winter break this year I went on a cruise; while the break was relaxing, there was something that stopped me from really enjoy my vacation. Over the break I had to read *Sense and Sensibility* by Jane Austen, write a paper, do a math project, and study for a chemistry test scheduled for right after the break in addition to worrying about finals being less than a month away. This took a great deal of time out of my "winter break." I would have felt more refreshed and prepared for the next three months of school had I been able to take my mind off of school for a couple of weeks. There are many reasons why we have a semester that ends after winter break, but none of these reasons make up for the disadvantages of ruining a vacation with anxiety about school-work and final exams.

A lot of people feel that being away from school is enough. I agree that being away from the routine of school is refreshing, but that is simply not enough to have a true "break." When you have to spend hours each day reading, writing, and studying, it is difficult to relax. School is stressful for all students, especially those who take his or her academics seriously, especially with the number of students who are taking many honors, advanced, and AP classes. While the ability to work through that stress is an important skill to have for college and a career, the ability to relax is just as important for students who are already stressed. Having winter break divide the semesters would also give the student body a feeling of a fresh start. If the first semester did not go exactly as you planned, having a two week break to relax could be just what someone needs to begin the new semester on the right foot.

Another reason used to justify working through the break is preparing for college and the workplace. The problem with this argument is that most colleges finish the first semester right before winter break. They do this to give students and staff time to really enjoy the break, which is often much longer that the two-week break we have in high school. Also, although many people have to work through Christmas and New Year's, when a person does choose to take vacation from work, rarely do they have to bring work with them. Vacation is vacation; it is not a time to continue working.

My major concern in relation to when first semester ends involves finals. By the time winter break has come around I have been in school for more than four months. I am in the habit of studying and the material for my classes is fresh in my mind. After two weeks, no matter how much I do to review, I will have to relearn a lot of the material simply because I have not been in a setting in which I am used to learning. Having a teacher in front of you, rather than just a book, is a more effective way to learn. As finals account for between ten and twenty percent of semester grades, I would rather not be forced to relearn material that was fresh in my mind before break.

I will admit that there is some merit to having finals after winter break. It gives you more time to study and forces you to take more personal responsibility for studying over the two-week break. It also prepares you for college in the sense that college demands more outside-of-class work than high school does. Despite these benefits, there are more than enough reasons to end the semester before winter break. The ability to relax, preparation for the collegiate school year, and the benefit of not having two weeks to forget what you have worked so hard to learn are a few arguments in my favor. It may require several changes in the structure of the entire school calendar, but I feel that for the benefit of the student body "winter break" should live up to its name.

Jim Katz is a junior and works a writer for the Spartana. *The views and opinions expressed in this column do not necessarily represent those of* the Spartana *or of its staff.*

Break provides opportunity to study; finals after holidays ideal

Puja Parikh
Associate News Editor

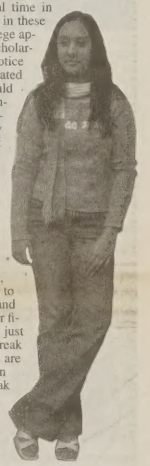
Imagine the following scenario: It's 5:30 in the morning and your alarm goes off. You get up, and jump into the shower. The previous night you had stayed up until midnight because you had basketball practice, forgot you had chemistry homework, read a chapter out of your novel, and tried to study for an impossible Spanish test. You're exhausted, and then just as you walk into school, you realize that you forgot to study for your psychology test. You spend the next three periods of the day ignoring the lectures of your teachers, knowing that this will hurt you in the long term, and study for your psychology exam while fighting sleep. The day drags on and finally at 2:15, you can relax. Well, actually, you have a research paper to write in two days, more basketball practice, work, and the novel that you tried to read yesterday is still waiting to be opened. It's happened to the best of us. These days, a student's life can be just as wild as any roller coaster ride, maybe even worse. But imagine if you had two weeks to accomplish all of those things listed previously. Ahh... paradise. Well, it is no longer a far away paradise, but a reality. In order to give students more time to study, as well as set their own schedules, finals should continue to be held after break.

Having a longer time to study, catching up on work, and working ahead are all benefits of holding finals three weeks after winter break. Finals are held over a course of three days, with two days devoted to two finals each, and one day with three finals. If finals were held before break, students would have to review for all of these classes, as well as keep up in the current chapter that these classes are covering. Instead of it all being heaved in together over the course of one week, students are given four weeks: two weeks of winter break, and two weeks after break, to prep for these exams. This way, students who are willing to study over break have a longer time to study. Students who are not willing to study over break have two weeks after break to study. Also, if a student feels that he/she is behind in any one class, he/she can catch up over break. Many students like to work ahead during break, so that they can take it easy after school starts up again. For example, for my math class, I went ahead and finished the chapter, so that I could concentrate more on other subjects that I was having difficulty with once school started up again. I am not the only one, however; many other students spend break doing just the same.

In addition to catching up with classes and working ahead, winter break offers students a chance to relieve the tension that school causes, and set up their own schedule. As seen from the example of the student in the above paragraph, students have very hectic lives and schedules. If finals were held before break, students would not have find enough time to study. The tension of waking up for school, getting there, and staying awake in classes increases. A student's attention could become diverted from academics, and the causes could be catastrophic. However, because finals are held after break, students get more time to study on their own schedule. They can enjoy the holidays with friends and family, as well as study for finals and other exams. They can set up their schedules to fit around the rest of their day. Otherwise, students would be scrambling to fit study time into the set schedule that they had before winter break. With this thought on the top of their minds, SACS administrators decided that it would be best to hold finals after break; a wise decision indeed.

Another aspect to consider includes one-semester classes. If we hold finals after break, then first semester will be shorter than second semester. This wouldn't be fair to students and staff. It has been suggested that the school year is then started earlier, but that would mean starting school three weeks earlier, during the last week of July. This only cuts back on summer break, a time of serious leisure.

High school students have a plethora of things to do, and it is my opinion, and that of many others such as myself, that the best way to relieve this tension is to hold finals after break. Our school's schedule is a classic example after which all other schools should model themselves when it comes to semester finals. However, some say that over break, students who do not study tend to forget things. They are, in fact wrong about this. If students have been working hard before winter break, then they surely cannot forget a semester's worth of material. It is scientifically proven that a human's mind and memory are sharpest during their adolescence. I do agree that many students do not want to study over break, but that is their decision. And do think about this: If you spend 1 hour studying everyday for 13 days, that is 13 hours of studying for 7 classes... enough to keep your memory sharp, no doubt. Critics still persist, saying that a student cannot enjoy break. I feel that at this point in an adolescent's life, we must sacrifice some of our enjoyment time in order to build our careers. The most vital time in our entire lives rests in these four years (with college applications, SATs, scholarships, and such). Notice however, that I stated that students should sacrifice SOME enjoyment time. Winter break is not only a time to study, but a time to have fun and spend time with family and friends. Moreover, even after break we still have two weeks to study, enough time to enjoy break and still study. Because finals are held after break, students have time to enjoy life a little, and additionally, study for finals. Winter break is just what it says it is: a break from school. If finals are held after break, then students can use break to study using their own schedules, and can also spend time with their family to enjoy the holidays.



Puja Parikh is a sophomore and works as the Associate News Editor for the Spartana. *The views and opinions expressed in this column do not necessarily represent those of* the Spartana *or of its staff.*

Student Input

They should be after winter break because students need more time to study and [illegible] so teachers have more time to give students information that will be on the finals.

Danielle Gauthier (10)

I think finals should be before break, because then the knowledge would be fresh in our minds and we wouldn't forget stuff over break. Honestly, who thinks about school over break?

Tyler Lambert (10)

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Profanity may appear in *the Spartana* with the approval of the advisor, but only in cases of direct quotations or if it is necessary for clarity. Material which is libelous or obscene and could cause substantial and material disruption, as defined by the Supreme Court, will not be printed.

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Staff members of *the Spartana* support the First Amendment rights and oppose censorship in any form. The content of the paper is determined by the student staff. In cases of potentially controversial material the editorial board will meet to decide the content of the newspaper. Students will be assisted by the advisor in areas of professional ethics and legalities.

Wells scholarship awarded to both nominees for second time in school history

John Greco (12), Neil Shah (12) receive full tuition, room and board, living stipend to Indiana University after three-step process

Vasundhara Bhargava
Intern Writer

For the first time since 1990, two students from this school have been chosen to receive the Wells scholarship award.

Every year, about 20 to 25 incoming freshman at Indiana University (IU) are offered the Herman B Wells Scholar award. This award, which was offered for the first time in 1990, provides necessary fees, tuition and housing funds for four years of education at IU. Out of the 20-25 who are offered the award, 18-22 choose to accept it. The award, which is based exclusively on merit, requires students to maintain a high school GPA of at least 3.4. Wells scholars must complete no less than twelve credit hours of course work every semester. If selected, Wells scholars are also given the chance to spend a year abroad through the university's overseas study courses and are given a one-time $1750 grant if they choose to pursue a summer internship.

This year, the two students that received this high-status scholarship were Neil Shah (12) and John Greco (12). To apply for the scholarship, students first had to fill out the Wells application at school and turn it in by September 20, 2004. Then, the school Wells scholarship committee, which consisted of all the guidance counselors and a small number of teachers, chose two applicants to represent the school as nominees for the scholarship. The committee chose nominees from 12 applicants.

> "This is the way. Here they are. They are our best and brightest: John Greco and Neil Shah."
> Tom Quigley

The school scholarship committee selected the applicants based upon academic achievements, demonstrated leadership, and community involvement. According to Tom Quigley, school counselor, the most important question that the committee members asked themselves was whether the student in question had done anything out of the ordinary.

Shortly after, the Wells committee at IU narrowed their selection from around five hundred applicants down to 55 students as finalists. These final students were interviewed, and from there, the students that were to receive the scholarship were chosen and contacted.

"We have very high hopes because in past history we have had many scholars from Homestead," Quigley said. "Our students have done exceptionally well."

Shah, who is currently ranked number one in his class, plans on majoring in finance and either economics, applied math, or both.

"I was pleased to find out that I was a finalist, but I guess I wasn't extremely excited because I knew it was only one more step and that from the past two or three years both of Homestead's nominees have become finalists," Shah said.

Shah applied for the scholarship because it will allow him to seize every opportunity that will be available to him at IU, and because the award is very prestigious. Shah, who is friends with Greco, said that he was excited that Greco also received the scholarship.

"It made me realize that Homestead is one of Indiana's best high schools," Shah said. "And that I'm fortunate to have had the opportunity to go here." Shah has been involved in tennis, key club, speech team, tutoring, and the newspaper and magazine staffs at school.

"I was excited and relieved that I won the Wells, especially after four years of hard work at Homestead," Greco said.

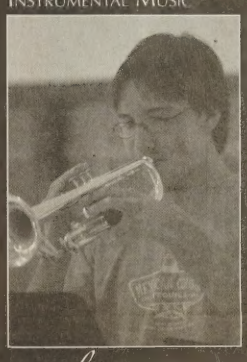
The director of the Wells program at IU contacted each scholarship winner personally, and Greco was excited when he received the news that he was to be awarded the scholarship. Greco, who is currently involved in many school activities such as key club, speech team, and marching band, plans to major in biochemistry.

"I applied for the Wells because it is such a generous scholarship and it includes opportunities beyond money," Greco said.

He is looking forward to meeting new people in college and living in an environment that is completely different from his current setting. He is proud that he is a part of the Wells scholarship program and is glad to share the award with Shah.

"The governor of Indiana, and all the university presidents, for many years, have talked about how we can keep the best and brightest in Indiana," Quigley said. "This is the way. Here they are. They are our best and brightest: John Greco and Neil Shah."

Not only is this award an honor for the recipients, it is also an opportunity for the school to be recognized for its talented and intelligent students.



Sterling students nominated for prestigious award

14 students compete in contest sponsored by local newspaper

News Sentinel *against other high school students for cash prize*

Ashley Butler
Profiles Editor

Possibly the most prestigious local scholarship, the sterling sentinel award, is the dream of fourteen senior nominees this year.

The scholarship, sponsored by the *News Sentinel* daily newspaper, awards fourteen students from area high schools annually. It focuses on areas in which students are rarely recognized, and attempts to present some of the best and brightest students in the city.

Every year, each school is allowed to nominate one student in the categories of voice, instrumental music, theater, business, math, foreign language, athletics, speech, English, journalism, social studies, science, art, and industrial/vocational studies.

At this school, students wishing to be nominated are required to speak to a teacher in their desired category to express their wishes. Later, all of the teachers of each subject meet to decide their area's candidate.

Next year, however, students may be required to complete a portfolio or present their works to the teachers before becoming able to be considered a nominee.

At the local level, students go through a rigorous interview process. In front of a panel of judges consisting of highly qualified local professionals, the candidates from each category answer questions and display a portfolio of their achievements.

In one of the more difficult interviews, the foreign language candidate is required to complete the entire interview in their language of proficiency.

"I'm kind of nervous because I don't know what they're going to ask me," Meredith Denney (12) said. "I can't prepare like the other categories can and it's going to be kind of spur of the moment."

After the nominees have been interviewed, there is a reception for recognition at the Embassy Theatre. Here, all students are awarded for their outstanding achievement, and the monetary recipients are named.

The scholarship amount for all but the journalism category is over one thousand dollars, as the journalism winner, is awarded twice as much. The *News Sentinel*, being a journalism corporation, shows preference to journalism students.

This year, nominees include: Jaime Blosser in voice, John Blevins in instrumental music, Jocelyn Gauthier in theater, David Stehlik in business, Neil Shah in math, Meredith Denney in foreign language, Bliss Cook in athletics, Katie Beck in social studies, John Greco in speech, Kasey Butcher in English, Suhasini Bhargava in journalism, Jason Leung in science, Andi O'Briant in art, and Krista Hopper in industrial/vocational studies.

The students will attend interviews shortly, and will attend the awards ceremony in April.

Last year, two students from school were awarded the Sterling Sentinel in performing arts categories; Tom Stoffel ('04) for voice, and Lauren Turkow ('04) for instrumental music.

Photo by zach hetrick

News from Student Government

Prom and MORP preparation are underway and there are many new and interesting things going into the planning of these events. Contact us at hhsstugov@sacs.k12.in.us.

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FIESTA

Band students travel to Phoenix, Arizona to compete for national title, march in annual Fiesta Bowl Parade

Katie Corson
Writer

Early on the morning of December 26, while many students were enjoying catching up on sleep, the members of the Spartan Alliance Marching Band were boarding planes to Phoenix, Arizona. While there, the band participated in the Fiesta Bowl Parade and competed in a field show competition at Bank One Ball Park.

The band travels every other year to participate in a parade during the Winter Break. Band members have marched in the Fiesta Bowl Parade numerous times before, in addition to participating in the Pineapple Bowl Parade in 1998 and the Rose Bowl Parade two years ago.

"One of the things I liked about this parade was that the stands were smaller, and closer to us," drum major Anna Menze (11) said.

Many students agreed that having the audience so close was a positive influence and something they were not accustomed to.

"We could actually hear what people in the audience were saying and that was really cool," clarinet player Liz Kitto (10) said.

Besides marching in the parade, students enjoyed competing against other bands from around the country in the field show competition.

"Competing in Phoenix was very different from competing in Indiana," Kitto said. "We didn't really know anything about any of the other bands, and I liked that. I thought our performance went well."

The Spartan Alliance placed second in the competition, while James Bowie High School from Austin, Texas placed first.

"I think James Bowie had a really talented band," drum major Jocelyn Gauthier (12) said. "We had a lot of intensity and focus during our performance, and I thought we did well so I was very pleased."

The band had to put in extra hours practicing and fund raising to go on the trip though.

"We did fund raising during the year, which all went towards paying for the trip," Menze said. "We also practiced after school on Wednesdays until five, and everyday we would practice our field show."

During the six days the band spent in Arizona they did a lot more than just play music. They were able to go sightseeing, which included visits to the Grand Canyon as well as Box Canyon.

"I really liked the Grand Canyon," cymbal player Stephanie Spencer (9) said. "We got to go on this train ride while we were there, and there was a fake robbery, which was fun."

Between performing and parading, the band also made a stop at a unique Arizona restaurant called Organ Stop Pizza. Organ Stop is original because it is home to the biggest organ in the world, costing $1.5 million.

"Organ Stop Pizza was one of my favorite parts of the trip because it was more than just a pizza place with a really big organ," drum major Paul Gilbert (11) said. "The man who played it took song requests from people and was very talented. The pizza was really good too."

The organ had 432 different instruments attached to it, 798 stops, as well as a foot pedal that changed the volume of the organ, all of which was controlled by a single musician. The longest pipe was 32 feet long, while the shortest was only one inch.

There was even a puppet show with puppets that danced along with the music.

"I think the fact that we were all in band made us appreciate such an instrument more," Gauthier said. "We have a good understand of how talented someone would have to be to play such an instrument."

Besides the competition, the parade, and the sightseeing, some students felt that the best part of the trip came from the memories they shared with fellow band members.

"I really enjoyed spending so much time with my friends doing really unique things," Menze said.

"I was seeing and doing such cool things," Gilbert said. "And I was doing them with some of my best friends. I thought it was a great way to spend part of my winter break."

» Ashley Mikulecky (10) and Erin Kniss (10) take in the scenes while visiting Arizona. The group placed second in their national band competition and parade.

» One of the students' destinations was the Grand Canyon where they went sightseeing.

» Band students Ben Nichter (10), Paul Gilbert (11), Eric Krafcheck (10), and Logan Gonol (10) ride to the Grand Canyon.

» A group of band students look down into the Grand Canyon.

Tommy Lyday (11) and Anna Menze (11) peer out of a window.

Latin Week. 3A • "Open Container" Policy. 5A • Final Exams Schedule. 6A • Phoenix, Arizona. 8A
you are here ▲

Girls B-ball

Struggling early on, the Spartans look to find their footing.

p. 2

Sports

Senior Powerhouse

Three seniors place first in conference and sectional competition.

p. 4

issue 8 • the Spartana • February 11, 2005

Roller coaster run

Up and down all season, boys varsity holds steady with a 9-5 record; faces off against New Haven Bulldogs tonight

Tyler Keena
Writer

The roller coaster ride season continues for the Spartan basketball team. The boys have been relatively unable to find their rhythm this year and put together a major win streak, yet they have managed to do more than just survive with an 9-5 record.

The Spartans were not able to find their rhythm against the Huntington North Vikings in a non-conference battle. The Spartans lost the game 66-56. Junior guards Grant Leindecker and Jono Cobb were the team's two leading scorers in the loss.

Following their non-conference loss to the Vikings, the Spartans had three more non-conference games in a row. The team managed victories in the first two games against Heritage and Leo in the Columbia City Tournament. The boys beat Heritage 54-36 and followed up that win with a 69-65 win against Leo to go undefeated in the tournament. However, the Spartans were unable to keep their win streak alive and put together a three-game win streak, as they lost to Concordia in a close 71-68 matchup. Leindecker and Cobb were the team's leading scorers in all three games once again.

> "We're a young team but we've still been able to step up and beat some tough teams. There were some games we could have won that we lost, but we're still playing alright and we have plenty of room for improvement."
>
> Grant Leiendecker (11)

The Spartans got back on track as they continued their tough conference schedule with a road victory against East Noble. Leindecker led the team in scoring once more in the 45-40 victory as the team moved to 2-0 in conference on the year.

But the roller coaster trend did not stop there, as the Spartans were not able to follow up the conference victory against East Noble with a win. The team dropped their first conference game of the year to Columbia City. The final score was 56-51 as once more the Spartan backcourt combination of Leiendecker and Cobb led the team in scoring.

However, the Spartans showed their resilience and were able to bounce back again after their first conference loss, with a 61-53 win over Northeast Hoosier Conference foe DeKalb. Cobb led the team in scoring with 21 points. At first, the game looked like the Spartans would to win in a rout. However, DeKalb managed to mount a comeback and bring the game to within four points. But the Barons could not complete the dramatic comeback, as Cobb aided the Spartans to the tough victory. The win brought the team's overall record to 8-5 and their conference to 3-1.

Jono Cobb (11) eyes » a jump shot from the baseline against the Carroll Chargers. Cobb's 28 point effort propelled the Spartans to victory. Cobb is also one of the area's leading free throw shooters, missing only seven thus far.

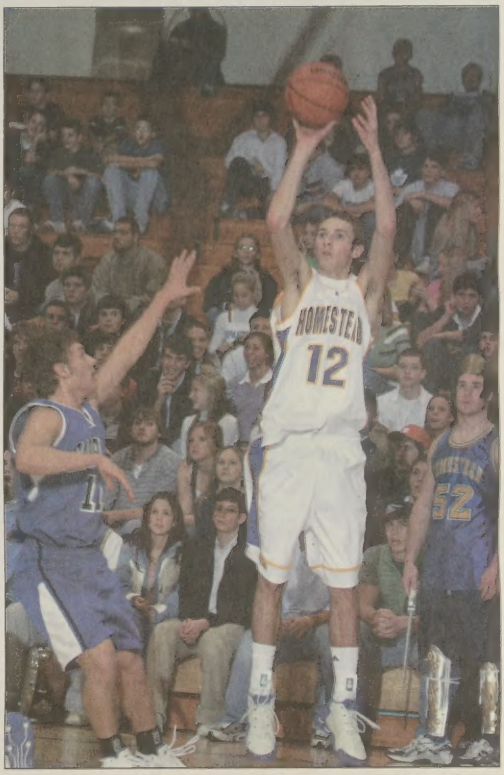
On Tuesday, the Spartans stayed at home, where they tried to start up a two-game win streak. The boys played Bishop Dwenger where they defeated the Saints 66-63 in a close battle. Leiendecker notched an impressive 26 point effort, leading all scorers that night.

The junior backcourt of Cobb and Leiendecker have shown their leadership qualities this year, as they have been able to lead a very young team to a strong 9-5 record and a 3-1 conference record.

"We're a young team but we've still been able to step up and beat some tough teams," Leiendecker said. "There were some games we could have won that we lost, but we're still playing alright and we have plenty of room for improvement."

The Spartans' next game was on February 5 as they took on another conference rival New Haven. With a victory, the team would have their first three-game win streak of the season, which might give the boys the momentum they need for further success.

Upcoming games for the boys include one against Elmhurst on February 16, 2005 at home.



Around the horn:

A quick look at a few of the school's top athletes and teams

Lilly Pixley (11) performs a difficult jump during a competition. Pixley recently competed at a national ice skating competition. Desmond Lewis (10) attempts to save a ball against DeKalb. See page 3B for the full story about the JV boys basketball team. Clinton Smith (12) bites a DeKalb opponent in an attempt to pin him. Brian Wight (12), Matt Witham (12) and Justin Allen (12) placed first in sectional competition. See page 4B for the full story about boys wrestling and senior stand-outs.

Undefeated start for boys swimming

Evan Childers
Writer

The boys varsity swim team has swum successfully all year, and looks poised for a strong leap into the postseason after making a powerful statement all season long.

The team started off the year by swimming against Carmel, East Noble, and Snider individually, defeating all three teams. After that, they defeated Yorktown, Hamilton Southeastern, Delta, and North Central in the Homestead invite, and then went on to post victories Northridge, Belmont, DeKalb, and Columbia City. Of these early season victories, Carmel was the biggest, because the Carmel team has posted state-championships back-to-back for years leading up to the 2004-2005 season. With such a strong showing against Carmel, the team's hopes of a state championship increase tenfold. The team has been swimming hard ever since, looking forward to a promise-filled postseason.

"We had a lot of great swimmers that we lost last year, but the juniors and sophomores are really stepping it up this year," senior team captain Ben Deschner (12) said. "The juniors in particular, like Shawn Sullivan and Andrew Hoffman, are really stepping it up this year in the pool and in leadership. I mean, if I could say one of the top reason I swim it would be because of the high-caliber people on the team. Especially the guys last year. You won't find another team like this one."

Deschner is one of two senior captains. The other is Brent Graham (12).

The success of the team can easily be explained by the team's approach to practice sessions. The rigorous physical training is supplemented by intense team unity, which has created a dynamic team with a lot of potential. Practices on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays are two and a half hours, and then practices on Tuesdays and Thursdays last from 3:30 to 6:30 and involve a combination of both swimming and dry land exercises. Over winter break the schedule was little different- harder if anything. Such an intense physical fitness regimen has created a lasting bond between the swimmers that has led to their season-long successes.

"You know people make jokes about swimmers or how they're goofy and whatnot but I have a lot of respect for the guys on our team," Deschner said. "You have to respect someone who thaws out a frozen suit before school and then again right after school for over two and a half hours every day at least, pushing themselves to their highest physical and mental limits, then who goes home to a lot of homework, only to wake up the next morning to do it again. And that obviously creates a lot of team unity."

The Spartans have their best ever chance of winning state this year. Last year they came in second to a dominant Carmel team, a team coming from a school that is usually expected to sweep state-title honors. This year though, the Carmel team does not have the strength to match-up with the Spartans, as indicated by their early season loss to the Spartans.

"It's going to be like the fall of the Roman Empire this year," Deschner said.

The Spartans have surpassed all expectations, and only hope that an easy schedule will not lull them into a false-sense of security before the upcoming state competition. Nevertheless, team confidence is high.

"Our coach provided the intense workouts that pushed every individual to his or her limits, while the other members would provide the encouragement to drive us past those limits," Deschner said.

Boys basketball. 1B • Girls Basketball. 2B • JV Wrestling. 3B • Senior Wrestlers. 4B
you are here ▲

photo:zach hetrick

» Jessica Skiba (10) swims the butterfly event at an invitational. The girls hoped to do well at sectionals and advance to regionals.

Girls swimming drowns the competition

Team participated in sectional meet last Saturday, competed at regionals on Tuesday

Sam Van Horn
Writer

To unify players on a team, some will shave their heads or get matching apparel for their respected sport. The girls swimming team members, however, have decided to die their hair pink as they mentally prepared for sectionals on Saturday, February 5. .

This year the girls swimming team is among the best in the entire state. The great season dates back to the hard work done three times a week in the morning, and six days a week.

"We train very hard with nine practices a week plus three weight sessions," Macy Zander (10) said.

The training has shown results, especially in the month of December, as the Spartans are undefeated and finished fourth in an important invite.

The first meet in December was against their rival Snider Panthers. At the time, the Spartan swimmers were ranked 15th and Snider was ranked sixth. The girls swam hard and were able to pull off the underdog win 101-85. It was the first time in four years that the Spartans had beat the Panthers.

"We were very excited," Kelly Veenstra (10) said of the victory. "We lost to them last year at sectionals by one point."

With the girls swimming team in high spirits after the big win over Snider, they hosted an invite that comprised the best teams in the state. They finished fourth overall and continued their great run of wins in the month of December.

"It prepared us for sectionals since it had teams from around the state," Veenstra said.

The final meet in December was on the 18th against Northridge. The first half was all Northridge; however, the Spartans were able to come back and pull out the victory. With that win, the team moved up in the rankings and is in great shape as they prepared for conference.

After a dominating December, the Spartans looked forward to do the same in January. Carroll came into Homestead wanting to knock off the now 8th ranked team in the state; however, they were unsuccessful in their attempt. The Spartans manhandled the opposition winning 10 of the 12 events. Sam Nolting (11) won the diving event for the Spartans, and all relay teams won as well. The 400 free relay with Kristen Witham (9), Alexis Klefeker (9), Amy Gutwein (9), and Jessica Skiba (10) won with a time of 3:51.72. The 200 medley relay team with Klefeker, Emily Aeschliman (9), Veenstra, and Emily Ring (12), won with a time of 1:58.8. The other relay team, 200 free relay consisted of Kelly Johnson (11), Witham, Ring, and Skiba and won with a time of 1:41.11.

Other events included the 500 free won by Zander, 100 back won by Klefeker, and the 100 back won by Heather Moore (10). Also, Homestead took the 50 free won by Ring, and the 100-butterfly won by Ring as well.

The practicing for the Spartans got more intense in the month of December as conference was getting closer. Practice has paid off with a fantastic December and a win against Carroll and in January. Also, Homestead was able to defeat Norwell on January 18, to continue their streak of wins.

"Our season has been going very well and we are ranked well in the state," Zander said.

Tapers start for the team as important meets come closer. The swimmers will get more rest and the practices get easier for sectionals, state, and conference.

"Coach talked to us about creating our own races," Veenstra said about their upcoming events. "We're not going to see these people at state."

Thursday, February 3rd the girls had their preliminaries to qualify for the next round on the 5th that Saturday. There were three heats for each event. The top 12 in each race advanced to the finals, and the top six for relays.

Last Saturday determined which swimmers would move on to state. In order to do this, the swimmers had to either win their competition, or they could have also made the state cut.

"Our coach told us that everyone needs to do their personal best, and get 20 races to state," Veenstra said.

The Spartans fell three races short of their goal, advancing 17 to state. However, they cleaned up coming in first and won by a large margin.

"One of our goals was to achieve our personal best, and everyone did," Veenstra said.

The girls swimming team will compete today to determine who will move on to swim Saturday. In order to advance, they must finish in the top 16 of theirs event. The best swimmers will be determined, as the entire state will be there to fight for the top spot.

The girls will swim in Indianapolis at the IU-PUI natatorium.

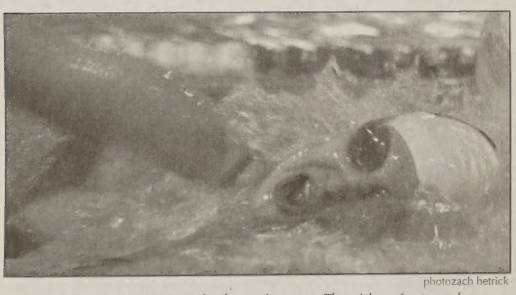


photo:zach hetrick

» Jessica Skiba (10) swims in the freestyle event. The girls swim team has been very successful this season with wins against Snider and Carroll.

photo:zach hetrick

» The team gathers in a huddle before competing at an invitational.

Advancing to regionals remains goal for boys bowling

Sam Van Horn
Writer

Despite having a disappointing season so far, with six losses and four victories, the bowling team members still believe they can make it back to regionals for a second consecutive year.

Tryouts began in early October for the team as only 10 people would make the final cut. The team was selected and they had only one month to practice until their first match against Woodlan.

The scoring for bowling is different than just using the final score at the end of the game. It is based on individuals beating other opponents, and then determining a final team score. There are five bowlers for each team, each individual bowling twice. For example, if the Spartans win three games out of five, then their score would be 3-2 in their first round. However, for each game a team wins, they receive an additional five points. So, since Homestead was leading 3-2 they receive five points making their score 8-2. They then bowl again, and this time the other team wins 4-1. The score would be 9-6 Homesteads lead. However, the other team would receive five points for the win and they would be victorious with a score of 11-9.

"The expectations for this season were pretty high," Riley Crandall (10) said. "Last year we went to regionals and we expect to do the same this year."

Early November came and the bowling team started their season with a win over Woodlan 11-9. Their next game was with Bishop Luers and the match would be determined by the team who had the highest amount of total pins. The score was a 10-10 tie after two games. There can not be a tie in bowling, so they had to determine the match on total pins. Unfortunately for the Spartans, they were behind in this category and lost to Bishop Luers.

"We don't really fear anyone but, if we did I'd say we would probably fear North Side," Crandall said.

That team was exactly who Homestead faced in their third game of the season. Northside came out strong and trampled the Spartans 18-2. In the teams next game, Homestead dished out some of their own punishment beating Canterbury 18-2 and pushing Homestead's record to 2-2.

The fourth game was against Elmhurst and they lost 10.5-9.5. It was a very close match for the Spartans, and they left the match feeling cheated. This loss happened because one bowler split a score with another bowler to give them a tie game. The Spartans would then face a tough drought losing their next three games to Concordia, Columbia City, and Snider. The combine score of those games were 45-20 in favor of the opposition. The bowlers were going through a rough patch, but would later prove themselves by breaking their loosing streak with a win. A four game losing streak on the bowler's minds they came out against Blackhawk wanting to turn things around. They did so winning 12-8 making their record so far for the season 3-6.

Their game played on January 11th was against Dwenger. Homestead was able to pull out the win and put a few wins together and improve the record to 4-6.

Through the rest of January, the bowling team has won two of their last three games, as their record now stands at 6-7. One of these wins came against the number one ranked team in the city, Northrop. The Spartans were able to upset them with a 12-8 victory.

"It was an important win for our team," Cory Elmer (10) said about the victory.

Despite their underdog defeat, the team still believes they can perform better in matches.

"There's no doubt we can play better," Crandall said. "We need to practice more as we start to get into sectionals."

The top bowlers for the team are Erick Brabin (11) averaging 194 per game. Crandall averages 182 per game. Also performing well is Tim Patterson (12) averaging 178 per game and Bill Ewart with 175. Almost all of the team has had a chance to play for the varsity team, as they have had many changes to the lineup. However, those four bowlers are players that need to perform well for the team.

There is still time for the bowling team to turn it around and make this season better. The rest of the season and sectionals will prove to them if they can indeed finish this season strong.

"We still believe as a team we can get back to regionals this year," Crandall said.

Girls basketball awaits postseason games

Girls conquer Snider, East Noble but face defeat against Northrop

Jessica Bird
Writer

Getting over early season losses makes winning later games even more difficult for any sports team. As the postseason games begin, the Lady Spartans look to avenge regular season rivalries, and use practices to make themselves more successful. After a brutal beginning to the season, however, the girls basketball team hopes to make up for early losses, play like a team, and begin to enjoy the thrill of victory.

"We were not playing as a team in the beginning of the season," Joy Nordin (11) said. "We would come down the court and take a shot after only one or two passes."

Learning from these mistakes has made the team more successful in more previous games.

"Now we take the time to set up the play and see what comes out of it, rather than rushing a shot," Nordin said. "The team has bonded through team dinners and the Mccutcheon Tournament we had over winter break."

The McCutcheon took place on December 30, at McCutcheon. The team, however, lost 40-47 at this tournament.

Other tough early season games included a game against Northrop.

"Northrop was the hardest game we had all season because they are state-ranked," Nordin said.

Other games the Spartans have played since Winter Break include games against Snider, (W; 63-59), East Noble (W;57-52), at Columbia City (L;22-48), Bellmont (W; 61-46), Heritage (L; 47-53), at Dekalb (L; 55-59), Northrop (L; 48-58), at Leo (W; 46-33). Games that were considered a Northeast Hoosier Conference Game for the Spartans were against East Noble, Columbia City, Bellmont, and Dekalb. The Spartans are currently in 5th place in their conference, with a conference record of 3-4. The team is currently ahead of Bellmont, East Noble, and New Haven. Leading the Northeast Hoosier Conference and records of those team's Conference games are Dekalb (6-1), Carroll (6-1), Columbia City (6-1), and Norwell (4-3).

In addition to all of the teams that the Spartans have played against thus far, the team hopes to play others in postseason games.

"We'd like to play against Luers because we didn't get to play against them in regular season," Nordin said. "It would be a good game because they are really good but it'd be tough"

Despite earlier loses, the team members know that they need to keep it together. Teamwork has helped the Lady Spartans get through recent difficult games.

"We do well on encouraging each other and picking each other up, considering how difficult the season has been," Kacie Whitmore (11) said.

Although the team has played through hard games already, there are still more to come.

"We will just have to take each game at a time and hope to be successful," Whitmore said.

The post-season for the Spartans begins with a tough game against Huntington North team.

"Right now we're hoping to get through our first game so we're just concentrating on that now," Whitmore said.

Since the game against Huntington North will be so difficult, the Spartans have been preparing at practice extra hard to overcome their first post-season game.

"At practice we scrimmaged against the freshman boys team to help us prepare for the game against Huntington North," Nordin said.

For the remainder of the season, which is by far the most important part of the season, as it is when tournament play begins the team knows that taking a good approach to each game will help them be successful.

"Our first game of sectionals is going to be really tough," Jenny Schepper (11) said. "We're just concentrating on getting through that game and then we will concentrate on the rest of the post-season."

The Spartans' first sectional game is February 11 at 7:30 at Huntington North.

photo:zach hetrick

» Hannah Weide (12) plays defense against Angola.

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Junior varsity basketball teams hope to improve skills to make varsity

Boys experienced only one loss this season

Josh Butcher
Writer

The JV team is 8-1 and starting off the season with total domination. Coach Barrak Coolman looks to push them, and get them in shape since competition has increased and gotten better since last year.

Many guards are hitting important shots and forwards down low are getting key rebounds to put away close games. The JV squad is looking to finish out the season without having to suffer another loss.

The season kicked off against Whitko on Saturday, November 23. With only a few weeks of practice, and the pressure of the first game of the season, the young Spartans excelled, taking it easily 53-34, and starting off the season with a win.

Things changed when they faced Harding on the first of December. Looking good going into the fourth quarter, the Spartans blew a big lead to go into overtime against the Hawks. Homestead ended up losing the game with a score of 52-61, but they fought valiantly.

"We had the game won going into the fourth, but just ended up losing in OT," guard David Blake (10) said.

Now with a record of 1-1 the JV team was looking average, but only time would tell how good they really were.

Next, the Wayne Generals traveled to Homestead on December 3. The boys started off a little shaky in the first half, but came out strong in the second to put the game away with a score of 41-35.

Then, Southside came to HHS, where the JV squad protected the house winning by four points, 44-40.

On Saturday, December 11, the boys went to Manchester. With a season high, Jordan Wise (10) lead the team with 22 points to close out the overtime victory 46-38.

Now 4-1, it was time for the Spartans' first conference game against the Carroll Chargers. They dominated the game, but a last second lucky shot kept the point spread under 10. They took the game 37-30 and were undefeated in the NHC.

Their next opponent was Huntington North on December 18. Playing down from varsity, Connor Meeks (10) helped the squad out with some great blocks, as the Spartans went on to win a close one 31-28.

Now with five wins under their belt, it was time for some tournament play during winter break. Their first game on Tuesday, December 28 was against Leo High School. It was a close game the whole way, and they were losing near the end, but guard Michael Cobb (10) put it away to win 47-43.

"Michael really stepped it up and hit some big shots against Leo," Wise said.

The championship game in the tournament was against Northside. They played some great basketball until near the end, but still won by six, 46-40, to take first place honors in the tourney.

Coming off of a short break, the team started up again on the seventh of January playing the Concordia Cadets. Cobb, scoring 21 points with five three pointers in the first half, led the team to an exiting 45-44 win in overtime.

The next day they played East Noble, and took an easy 53-30 victory, letting many of the non-starters get a lot of playing time.

On the January 14th they faced Columbia City where they were tied 36-36 at the end of regulation play. With 18 for Cobb and Brian Laipple (11) getting a lot of big rebounds, the Spartans ended up with a 46-39 win.

The new coach, Coolman, has proved himself as a strong coach, as the JV team is 8-1. He insists on pushing the boys to their best abilities and making them better daily.

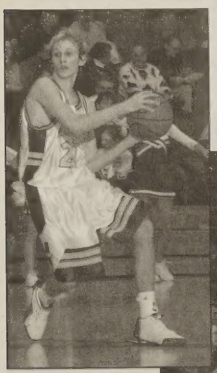
"Barrak is a great coach who expects the most from us," center Alex Kartman (10) said. "I feel our season has so far been a success and we still have room to improve."

"He pushes us and is helping us get better offensively and defensively," Blake said. "He's a good coach. We're doing well; everyone is getting better and we're winning."

Although they have had many close calls, the JV team has found a way to win almost all of their games. Their teamwork, good defense, and scoring ability has lead them to an almost undefeated season thus far.

If they can focus on playing all four quarters strong, holding leads, and closing it out aggressively, the Spartans can continue their success.

» Brian Laipple (10) is getting ready to do whatever it takes to keep the basketball from going out of bounds at the Columbia City game on January 14. Laipple plays as the center for the junior varsity team. He got a lot of big rebounds at that game while Michael Cobb (10) also had 18 points to contribute to the team's win by a final score of 46-39.



« Michael Cobb (10) pivots to pass the ball in the game against Columbia City. Cobb is one of the shooting guards on the junior varsity team, while his older brother, Jono Cobb (11), plays as a forward for the varsity team.

» Jordan Wise (10), forward, stops abruptly while dribbling the basketball against an opponent from Columbia City to be able to pass or take a shot.

photos/zach hetrick

Girls team faces tough challenges, fierce competition ahead as the season comes down to the final stretch

Taylor Pyle
Writer

Starting off the season 7-6, the girls junior varsity basketball team is working hard and well together to add more victories to their win column. With every advancing game, the team gives their all to allow a better season record.

With head coach Tony Casto and assistant coach John Thompson pushing them, the girls are a force to be reckoned with; especially when they are playing on all cylinders.

The team started off the season on November 19 against a tough Bishop Dwenger team. The girls played hard, but first game jitters got the best of them and the Saints sent them home with their first loss of the season.

After their difficult loss to Bishop Dwenger, the girls pulled it together, overcame their weaknesses and managed a strong victory against Elmhurst High School.

Their next opponents were the Huntington North Vikings. As usual, the Vikings are a very talented team.

"Huntington North has always been a rival and it was a tough game," Erica Merrifield (10), a forward on the team said. "Although we played well, they still beat us."

The loss to Huntington North inspired the girls, as they went on to defeat North Side. But once again, after evening out their wins and losses, the Lady Spartans went on to lose two straight; to both the Norwell Knights and the Concordia Cadets.

"The beginning of the season was rough, we all had to get used to playing together again," guard and forward Rachel Schenk (10) said. "But we are really improving more each day because of the hard work we do in practice."

The girls rallied back as a team and beat the New Haven Bulldogs and the South Side Archers. These two wins were big confidence boosters for the girls, as they once more evened out their record at 4-4.

With moral high, the girls went into their game against Carroll with the desire to pull out another win. Although they gave it all they had, the Lady Spartans lost a heart breaker to the Chargers to bring their record to a disappointing 4-5.

During winter break, the girls managed to break even with a record of 6-6; they defeated Angola and Norwell, but lost to Leo.

After practicing hard and playing well during winter break, the girls played one of their biggest rivals in the Snider Panthers.

> The fact that all of us are friends off the court as well as on helps. A group of us have been playing together for over four or five years; either in AAU or middle school.
>
> Rachel Schenk (10)

The game, played at home, was expected to be a battle to the end; the ladies did not disappoint. During the first two quarters of the game, the Lady Spartans came out with intensity and were ready to play.

By the end of the first half, the Lady Spartans were up 15 points on the Panthers; mainly due to powerful defense, fast break points, and clutch shooting by Eden Lamb (11). Coming into the second half, the girls had great confidence and were ready to add to their lead.

After making a couple quick shots, the girls went into a slump that extended from he middle of the third quarter to the beginning of the fourth. Snider took advantage of this slump and pulled to within four points before the Spartans could recover.

The rest of the fourth quarter was a shoot out, with the Spartans staying above by only a small margin. With about 30 seconds left, Joy Nordin (11) knocked down two free throws to give the lady Spartans a four point lead.

Unfortunately, Coach Casto received a technical foul, which gave the Panthers two free throws and the ball. Snider missed both shots, but made a lay-up to come to within two points.

The Spartans got the ball back with 20 seconds remaining, but threw the ball out of bounds with five seconds left in the game. The Panthers tried to capitalize on Homestead's mistake, but missed the game winning shot.

"The game against Snider was the most exciting game we've played this season," Schenk said. "It's the best the JV team has played yet."

Homestead followed up that big win with two more wins in a row, against East Noble and Columbia City. These three wins brought the ladies' record to 9-6.

The team's success this season is mainly due in part to the strong bond that the girls have with each other on and off the court and the strong coaching by Casto and Thompson.

"The fact that all of us are friends off the court as well as on helps," Schenk said. "A group of us have been playing together for over four or five years; either in AAU or middle school."

"They are good coaches," Merrifield said. "They are intense, but that's what I like about them."

As their season prolongs, the girls look to improve their record and their game. Getting better this season will help their chances of moving up to varsity next year; maybe even this year.

The hard work the girls put into every practice and game makes them appealing to varsity coaches, as well as a solid team for opponents to handle.

Wrestling team finishes season with high conference standing

Joe Salisbury
Writer

After a long win streak to begin the wrestling season, the boys junior varsity team is still going strong. With several big wins, such as defeating Snider in their first match at the start of the year, they gained a lot of confidence and have carried that throughout the season.

On December 13th the Spartans went to Northrop for an important non-conference three way meet. The team defeated the Bruins and Garrett, but lost to Snider.

The next day the team traveled to face the Wayne Generals, feeling very confident with their success so far in the beginning of the season. Once again the team came out strong and won easily, 24-0.

The Spartans then had another conference meet against East Noble. Winning this match would be important if the team wanted to win the conference championship. With a lot of the line, the team stepped up and won yet again. With the majority of their regular season schedule done, they still had several important matches left that affected their chances at the conference championship.

As of press date, the team bad lost to only one team, and was looking to continue this impressive run. While many of the high schools had overlooked the Spartans, the wrestlers have proved them wrong by showing that they are one of the best junior varsity teams in the area.

"Our team has been wrestling very well this season," said Henry Shine (10). "At our tournaments and invitationals we have had a lot of people of experience with the sport and has helped to improve the team throughout the year.

"We learn a lot from all of our coaches," Shine said. "They have prepared us for our matches, and the technique they have taught us will make us successful."

> We learn a lot from all of our coaches. They have prepared us for our matches, and the technique they have taught us will make us successful.
>
> Henry Shine (10)

On January 6th, the team had a rare home match against the Bellmont Braves. Bellmont has been a perennial powerhouse the last few years in area wrestling. With this match most likely determining who won the conference crown, the team went in with extra motivation.

Unfortunately, the team was out matched and lost their first match of the year. The team was still very pleased with how the season was going, and was looking to finish strong in the next few meets.

The team had only three matches before their season came to an end. On January 11th, they traveled to Elmhurst High School to face the Trojans. The coached decided to let the team face the varsity team from Elmhurst. In what was expected to be a very tough test, the team pinned the competition to an easy victory.

Then on January 15th, the junior varsity team goes to the Plymouth Invitational. Once again, they fared well with many top place finishers in several weight classes.

Finally, on January 25th, the team concludes their season with a triple dual at New Haven. However, the match was canceled and the team's spectacular season was over.

In conclusion, the team is very pleased with how the season went. They were placed very high in the conference standing, which has been one of their goals for the season.

In addition, many of the wrestlers feel that they have improved a lot over the season and ready to make it to varsity next year.

Boys basketball. 1B • Boys swimming. 1B • Girls basketball. 2B • JV Wrestling. 3B
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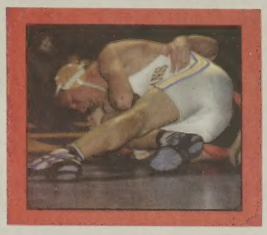
Season Highlights



*Were awarded **third** place at the Wawassee Invitational.

*Had **three wrestlers win their weight divisions** at the sectional competition including **Bryan White** (12), **Matt Witham** (12), and **Justin Allen** (12).

***Placed first** at the New Haven Invitational.

From Top: Clinton Smith (12) wrestles against DeKalb. Deryck Jeffries (11) attempts to throw his competitor. Matt Witham (12) tries to gain control of his opponent during a home match.

Andrew Callahan (11) fights to get a hold of his opponent during Homestead's home match against the Dekalb Barons.

Seven wrestlers advance to regional competition

Varsity wrestling team finishes in fourth place at sectionals; defeats Carroll

Evan Childers
Writer

The season-long success of the varsity wrestling squad led to a fourth place finish at the sectional competition, leaving a bitter taste in the mouths of Spartan wrestlers, who had their sights set on an appearance at the regional competition. The team had its best opportunity to make a post-season run in many years, but fell short by a painfully small margin.

"We really thought we would make it out of sectionals," Matt Witham (12) said. "The top two advance to regionals. We thought our chances of being one of those teams was good. I mean there are always several individuals who make it out of sectionals but we had a really good feeling as a team this year and it's disappointing to fall short by so little."

Over the course of the season the team amassed an impressive record interspersed with several important victories. In the first match of the season, the team defeated a ranked Snider squad, and followed that win with another over DeKalb. After the two initial victories, they went 3-3 over the next 6 games, defeating Carroll, New Haven, and Wayne but losing to Columbia City, Norwell, and East Noble. Then the squad finished third in the Wawassee Invitational, and first in the New Haven Invitational, and did well throughout the rest of the season. Sectionals held promise, and it is unfortunate the team missed out on the regional competition. Individually, seven of the finest made it to the regional competition. They are Math Witham (12), Clinton Smith (12), Brian Wight (12), Derek Hackl (11), Grant Laird (10), Will Bostain (10), and Justin Allen (12).

Although wrestling is an individual sport, the Spartan team drew on its unity during matches. The closeness of the team was a big factor in its strength during the course of the season.

> Everyone watches each other and really encourages one another. We have a lot of fun too. Not one day passes where we don't laugh hysterically in practice.
> Matt Witham (12)

"Even though wrestling is an individual sport, I think we have on of the closest teams in the area," Witham said. "Everyone watches each other and really encourages one another. We have a lot of fun too. Not one day passes where we don't laugh hysterically in practice."

Fan support is another reservoir that the wrestling team draws on for its strength. Fans our encouraged to come out and watch at least one of the seven wrestlers that made it to the regional competition, and the wrestlers more than welcome the support.

"Meets are definitely exciting and if you've never been to a wrestling meet you should come," Witham said. "All the lights are out except for one spotlight on the mat. It's really intense. We love big crowds because we aren't really used to it. The support is awesome, especially when you're facing good teams. Everyone should come to a meet because they're really fun."

Wrestlers are a different breed, often under-appreciated, and wrestling as a sport offers many distinct character building opportunities. The wrestlers on the varsity squad are no different, and every one of them must face the personal physical and mental challenges that the sport presents them.

"Wrestling is a sport that I would say challenges you more mentally and physically than any other sport," Witham said. "It teaches you how far you can push your body and mind, because your mind gives up a lot quicker than your body. It teaches you what your limits are. You get beat up and discouraged but it teaches you to keep going and push yourself beyond what's simply comfortable. Other sports teach camaraderie, but there's also a very individual aspect to wrestling, and you learn to accept mistakes because in wrestling it's you and the other guy. In wrestling everyone can see it. It teaches you to admit your mistakes and learn from them."

photosjack rozman

Senior Stand-Outs

Matt Witham (12), Justin Allen (12), Clinton Smith (12), Brian Wight (12) form core of team's successful season; bring talent, leadership to squad

Tyler Keena
Writer

Success is not something new to many Spartan athletic programs including wrestling. However, this year's senior wrestlers have gotten very familiar with winning, both as a team and individually.

As juniors last season, this year's senior wrestlers were a huge part of the team and a major reason for many victories. However, they also enjoyed much individual success, even in the postseason, as three of the four juniors advanced to semi-state competition. After enjoying such success in the 2003-2004 campaign, senior wrestlers Justin Allen, Matt Witham, Clinton Smith, and Brian Wight hope they will be able to improve their performances with an even stronger postseason this year, which begins with the Northeast Hoosier Conference (NHC) meet, which is the precursor to sectional competition. If all goes to plan, the seniors' seasons will end at the state wrestling meet.

Last year, as a junior, Allen managed to place second at semi-state competition and proceeded to advance all the way to state competition. This year, wrestling in the 189 pound weight class, Allen got off to a great start in the postseason with a first place victory in the NHC meet, which is accomplished by winning three consecutive matches.

Allen also took home a sectional championship in the 189 pound weight class two weekends ago, advancing him to the regional competition held last Saturday at Carroll High School.

Witham was also very successful last year wrestling in the 160 pound weight class. In 2004, Witham placed second in regionals and was able to advance to semi-state before a disappointing first-round loss. This year, Witham returned to 160 pound weight class and quickly got on the right track to surpass last year's performance with a first place victory in the conference meet.

Wight, the lightest of the senior Spartan wrestlers, also started off his postseason well with a first-place finish at the NHC meet. In his previous postseason in 2004, Wight advanced to all the way to semi-state competition and hoped to improve upon this performance in 2005 in the 112 pound weight class.

Wight managed to continue his successful postseason trend from his junior season by winning another sectional championship.

Smith also had a very successful junior year but hoped to improve on his postseason finish this year after failing to advance past regional competition in 2004. Smith was unable to get out to the strong start that he was hoping for, as he finished second at the NHC meet in the 152 pound weight class.

Smith entered sectionals confident and hoping to take home first place, but a surprising turn of events left him in second place. Smith advanced to the championship round, where he picked up his opponent and took him to the mat. The force of the landing apparently injured the opposing wrestler. Because Smith's move was ruled an illegal slam, and an opposing wrestler was injured by the move, the opposing wrestler was given the win.

"I'm feeling very confident heading into regionals," Smith said. "I should have won my sectional match, and I think I would have if the other wrestler wasn't injured."

The senior wrestlers have been the team leaders all year and they have continued to be victorious into the postseason.

"The seniors have really stepped up this year," Witham said. "Three out of four seniors won conference championships. Three out of four seniors won sectionals, and all four of us should have won sectionals. We have just been placing first and second all year and it has been a big help to the team's points."

From left: Clinton Smith (12) tries to throw his opponent during Homestead's meet against DeKalb. He would eventually win his match to help Homestead defeat the Barons during the regular season. Bryan Wight (12) works to get the advantage over during his match against the Barons. Wight was named champion of his weight class at the sectional competition and qualified to wrestle at the regional level. The regionals competition was held on Saturday, February 5th at Carroll High School.

Tipping her hat to Nashville

Student competes in country singing competition; qualifies for regionals

Jessica Bird
Writer

Hillary McBride (11) has competed in a competition to find America's next country star. "Nashville Star," on the USA Network, is essentially a country version of Fox's "American Idol." "Nashville Star," in its third season, goes from city to city judging hundreds of singers who hope to be the next winner. The grand prize winner of the third season of "Nashville Star" will be awarded a recording contract from Universal South Records.

"I tried out in Detroit on November 21 for the first round of auditions," McBride said. "The auditions required each person to sing a 60 acapella song. I sang the song that I wrote called 'Bright Eyed Girl.' There were about 645 people who auditioned in Detroit, and the judges picked two people from there. After I was picked as one of the two in Detroit, I went to Austin, Texas and auditioned on January 3. There were 50 people who had won their regionals, auditioning there and the judges picked ten out of that 50 to be on the show."

Regional competitions, however, are now over; all who have been selected to be on "Nashville Star" have been notified. The remaining 10 competitors after regionals will appear on the show. Although McBride was not chosen out of the 50 people at regionals to qualify for the next level of competition, the experience was a good enough substitution.

"I was not upset or devastated by not making it past regionals," McBride said. "I was on cloud nine just knowing that I had made it that far. Making it past regionals was just like a needle in a haystack compared to what I had accomplished in Detroit. I made it further than other people that I thought should have made it further than me. The hardest part was coming home and telling everyone that I didn't make it."

Being surrounded by so many musical talents has helped McBride with her music. Just having the opportunity to go through auditions has helped McBride realize what she must do to make it in the music industry.

"Going through the auditions has been the best experience ever," McBride said. "It helped me realize that I am not the only one out there that loves music as much. I thought I was only about half as good as some of the other people there. It was such a good experience but I know that I have so much more to do to be at the level at other people out there."

Other benefits from the auditions include local publicity. McBride has been in newspapers and has even been on the radio in the area. Country station K105.1 interviewed McBride after her auditions on "Nashville Star" and played "Bright Eyed Girl" on the radio.

"It was an awesome feeling when I heard myself on the radio," McBride said. "It was so cool to hear it because I wrote it and everyone could hear it."

When the "Nashville Star" airs, the top ten competitors will be judged by judges: musician, Bret Michaels; country singer/songwriter, Phil Vassar; and country music talent manager, Anastasia Brown. The host of the show will be Grammy®, CMA, and ACM award winner LeAnn Rimes. Other Country singers that will be special guests on the show include Montgomery Gentry, The Charlie Daniels Band, and Sara Evans.

McBride has influences of her own that have helped her keep her dream of singing alive. Martina McBride, one of the top Country singers in the world, is one of the role models in McBride's life.

"Martina McBride is my role model," McBride said. "I did a biography on her last year for school and learned a lot about her. She had a tough upbringing and had to deal with rejection from the music industry. Even after all of that she still went on and became one of the biggest country singers ever."

"Nashville Star" is to premier Tuesday, March 1 at 10/9C. The show will continue each Tuesday on USA. The Season Finale will be on Tuesday, April 26, where the grand prize winner will be selected.

the lost art

a column by Christy Landrigan

Spark of creativity may ignite holiday romance

Try twist on time-honored traditions for meaningful, memorable holiday

Christy Landrigan
Surplus Editor

Monday will be a day of mourning for many, a day of celebration for some, and a day of heartbreak for others. It is a day with countless meanings and incommunicable symbolism. Although Valentine's Day is a day of appreciation for important figures in one's life, it has become one of the most polarizing of all holidays.

It seems that commercialism has ruined not only the Christmas season, but Valentine's Day as well.

"It's a holiday made up by card companies to sell more cards," Levi Bolinger (9) said.

French teacher Susie Ferkel repeats her sentiments with slight variation.

"I'm sort of 'bah-humbug' about Valentine's Day," Ferkel said. "I think it's nice for romance, but I don't like how companies jack up all the prices. I think it should be every day."

Ferkel's attitude is not uncommon. The holiday can be viewed in both positive and negative lights simultaneously. While most people enjoy being appreciated and showing appreciation for others, often the appreciation appears to be less than genuine, with so many obligations to fulfill. For example, many gentlemen seeking to please their lady friends feel pressure to buy chocolates, flowers, and a card. As these tokens become more common, it seems that they are decreasingly acceptable as forms of gratitude because of the lack of thought that goes into buying them. Inability to find a suitable gift for a loved one plagues even those in long term relationships.

"I try to buy my husband a card, but I can never find one that says what I want it to say," Ferkel said.

Unfortunately, the overabundance of gift choices for a loved one seems to cause some people to shun or ignore the holiday altogether, choosing to do nothing commemorative of it.

"I'll do whatever I do every other day," Bolinger said.

Like Bolinger, Pavan Rao (9) has no special plans for the day.

"I'm coming to school--that's about it," Rao said.

Contrasting starkly to the other three opinions I gathered, social studies teacher Pat Teagarden is overwhelmingly positive about the day and its sentiments.

"I think Valentine's Day is a lovely day," Teagarden said. "I guess it's one of those moments when I can really appreciate having a woman such as my wife. Usually we have a meal, such as going out to dinner."

Admittedly, I was relieved upon finding a staunch Valentine's Day supporter.

I, too, believe that Valentine's Day has become commercialized and that the commercialism cheapens its meaning--but only if one allows it. A little bit of creativity can go a long way in making some one realize how important they are. Whether part of a couple or single, one can always make the day significant by simply showing gratitude to those who play important roles in one's life. Try something new this year.

Learn from the days of elementary school when students bought themed cards to hand out to everyone in the class. Give them out this year with a short message. Give your teachers one. Give your parents one.

Do not gush to your single friends about the sickeningly sweet things that you had your honey have planned. It only accentuates your own selfishness--you will share your plans with your sweetie. Instead, thank your single friends for the support they have given when you and your sugar muffin have gone through rough times.

Do not wallow in your current status if you are single. Be thankful for single friends who not only sympathize, but empathize with your feelings. Tell them that you appreciate them. Gratitude is one of the best cures for loneliness.

Be especially polite on Valentine's Day. Open doors for others. Buy some one lunch. Give a lunch lady a flower. Everyone appreciates being appreciated.

Christy Landrigan is a senior and works as the Surplus Editor for the Spartana. *The views and opinions expressed in this column do not necessarily represent those of* the Spartana *or of its staff.*

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Fun, functional: Kissing Kit

Last minute gifts need not be the standard chocolates and flowers. Quirky gifts create memories that are sure to set Valentine's Day apart from others. Ideas such as this kissing kit can be both fun and practical, even for single friends. Include quick breath fixes like Listerine Pocket Packs, Ice Drops, and various flavors of gum. Other possible items to include in the kit: kissable lip balm or gloss and Oral B Brush Ups. If nothing else, including a few Brush Ups will induce laughter in the recipient of the gift.

Aviator soars into theaters

Biography of womanizer Howard Hughes is sure Academy Award winner

Evan Childers
Writer

Although many critics have jumped on the Aviator bandwagon, calling it classic and brilliant, the film is simply too generic and straightforward to deserve the Oscar it will probably win. But if you're looking for a well-made film with a classic feel, *The Aviator* delivers with the best of the Hollywood biographies.

DiCaprio, although one of my least favorite actors, delivers a surprisingly powerful performance as the infamous billionaire Howard Hughes. I am still not convinced of his abilities, but he moves away from his the one-sided performances he delivered in *Titanic* and *Romeo and Juliet*. His portrayal of Hughes is not what you would expect from this teen-girl phenomenon with a baby face.

DiCaprio cannot do it all himself though--and what is a biography without a love interest or two? Howard Hughes certainly had his share of lovers (he was a well-known playboy), but the most famous were Katherine Hepburn and Eva Gardner, portrayed in the movie by Cate Blanchett and Kate Beckinsale respectively. Both actresses do convincing jobs as the women they play, although I am not familiar with their real-life counterparts. The actresses seem to be move beyond mere mimicry and develop a real feel for the emotions in their parts. Other memorable supporting performances are provided by actors like Jude Law, Alec Baldwin, Danny Huston and Ian Holmes. These smaller parts really add to the movie as a whole, making it seem more complete.

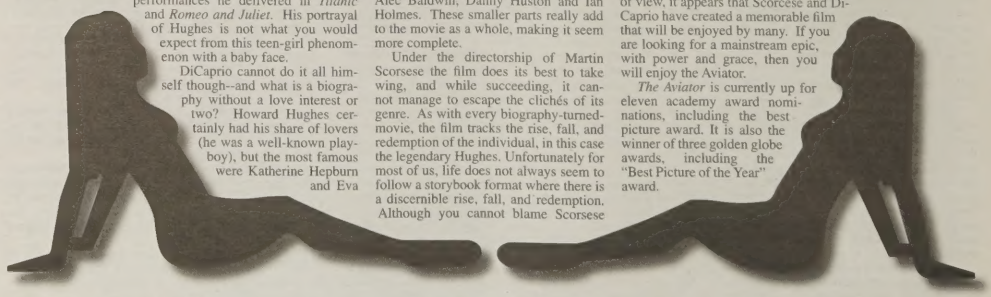
> "But if you're looking for a well-made film with a classic feel, *The Aviator* delivers with the best of the Hollywood biographies... Scorcese and DiCaprio have created a memorable film that will be enjoyed by many.

Under the directorship of Martin Scorsese the film does its best to take wing, and while succeeding, it cannot manage to escape the clichés of its genre. As with every biography-turned-movie, the film tracks the rise, fall, and redemption of the individual, in this case the legendary Hughes. Unfortunately for most of us, life does not always seem to follow a storybook format where there is a discernible rise, fall, and redemption. Although you cannot blame Scorsese for following this time-honored format, it would not hurt to see a director move away from such a basic, predictable formula. If you know what is going to happen before you watch the movie, why see it?

In Aviator's case, though, the power of the story and acting carry it through its predictability. And, in all fairness, the rise and fall that occurs in this film is moving, and the power of Aviator's acting carry it through any dull parts. Aviator has that Oscar-film feel, not because it broke any rules, but because it followed all of them so brilliantly.

The movie was okay, in my opinion, but this is not my type of movie. From a more objective point of view, it appears that Scorcese and DiCaprio have created a memorable film that will be enjoyed by many. If you are looking for a mainstream epic, with power and grace, then you will enjoy the Aviator.

The Aviator is currently up for eleven academy award nominations, including the best picture award. It is also the winner of three golden globe awards, including the "Best Picture of the Year" award.



Artist of the Issue: Norah Jones

Tyler Churchward
Designer

» Norah Jones' second album cover, *Feels Like Home*, is pictured above. The album was released on February 11, 2004.

What do you get when you combine jazz, soul, country, folk, and blues into one amazing singer and pianist? Well, the soulful sound of Norah Jones is most likely not the first idea to pop into your mind, but she is an extremely talented artist getting airplay on college, jazz, and rock radio stations across the country. Jones is the American-born daughter of an Indian rock star, Ravi Shankar, and her sophomore release, *Feels Like Home*, has a score of special guests, including Dolly Parton, Levon Helm, Garth Hudson (a member of her back-up band), Jesse Harris, Robert Burger, and Tony Scherr. Jones lives up to and probably surpasses most of the expectations left from her Grammy-winning debut album *Come Away With Me*.

Feels Like Home, Jones's second album, follows the same formula of country-infused jazz rock that allowed her first album to go quadruple platinum and steal the hearts of millions. Norah's Texas upbringing shines through with the country, and it adds an easy-listening feel. Some advice: if you ever feel stressful, play *Sunrise* and *Those Sweet Words*, I can almost guarantee you will feel completely relaxed. Parents? Grades? Test tomorrow? Do not worry about it, just listen to Norah Jones.

Sunrise, the opening track, is, simply put, amazing. The piano, played by Jones, combined with her semi-raspy yet captivating voice, makes for a song that defies you not to move your head or tap your feet in rhythm. The second track, *What Am I To You?*, possesses a more country feel, due to her vocals and guitar, as well as less piano. *Those Sweet Words* is nothing short of incredible; it blends a fair amount of piano with a bit of some odd percussion and light acoustic guitar and Jones sings of a man she longs to be with.

In the Morning is a song that anyone could play while high-tailing it out of town, a great song that gives the message of running away. *Be Here to Love Me*, another piano-heavy song, also includes accordion, a rare instrument in today's music. This is another easy-listening song that soothes the listener. *Creepin' In*, which features country music star Dolly Parton, has a very bouncy feel that gives the rendition of a country ho-down. Parton and Jones are an impressive duet and sound great together. *Toes* and *Humble Me* are decent songs, but *Above Ground* has an awesome guitar sound that reminds me of Pink Floyd's David Gilmour, another amazing guitarist. The song has a unique, jazzy feel that makes it impossible not to hum or tap along.

The Long Way Home is another more country-esque song with a bouncy guitar and Jones's wailing pipes. Even though I'm not fond of country, I still find this song enjoyable. *The Prettiest Thing* and *Don't Miss You At All* are two piano-laden songs that run together quite a bit, but are enthralling nonetheless.

All in all, Norah Jones's second album is very well-done, and Jones more than likely exceeds any of her fans' expectations with this hit release. Her backup band, The Handsome Band, consists of Adam Levy on guitar, Robbie Mcintosh on guitar, Andrew Borger on drums, Daru Oda, and Lee Alexander on bass guitar. *Feels Like Home* is a captivating album that is easy to enjoy and follows the same, award winning formula of her first album. I did not think I would like Norah Jones at all, but I was pleasantly surprised and can truthfully say I am a fan of both of Norah Jones's albums.

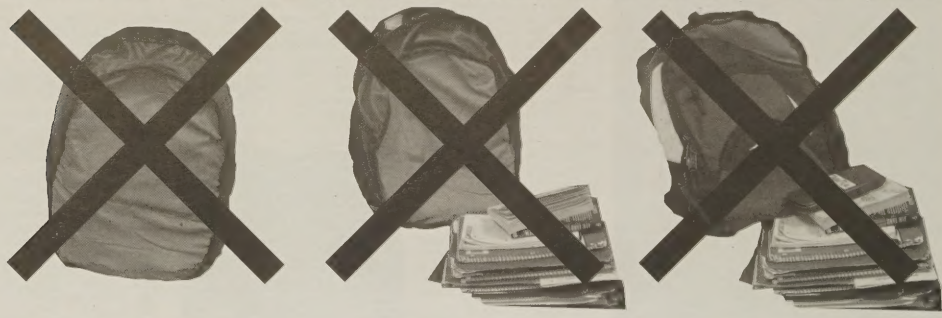
the charts

as of 2.1.2005

1	The Game	*The Documentary*
2	Green Day	*American Idiot*
3	Eminem	*Encore*
4	Lil Jon & The East Side Boyz	*Crunk Juice*
5	John Legend	*Get Lifted*
6	Kelly Clarkson	*Breakaway*
7	Usher	*Confessions*
8	Ludacris	*The Red Light District*
9	Various Artists	*Now 17*
10	Destiny's Child	*Destiny Fulfilled*
11	Jay-Z/Linkin Park	*Collision Course*
12	Shania Twain	*Greatest Hits*
13	Ciara	*Goodies*
14	The Killers	*Hot Fuss*
15	Fantasia	*Free Yourself*
16	Soundtrack	*The Phantom of the Opera*
17	Mario	*Turning Point*
18	Snoop Dogg	*Masterpiece*
19	Nelly	*Suit*
20	2Pac	*Loyal to the Gamez*

Ban on popular forms of entertainment only small step

Further bans on daily student practices while at school would eliminate disruptions



Evan Childers
Writer

Recently, for reasons only known to administrators, the school decided to ban the practice known as nugging. Nugging, for those you still in the dark, consists of removing the contents of a book bag, turning the book bag inside out, re-depositing the contents and zipping the new product up. Also included in the recent ban were less popular forms of entertainment, such as punching people in the leg (where this came from, I don't know) and using paper clips to lock the zippers on bookbags. But the real focus of the ban was nuggeting. Once again, the administration has decided to ban a form of entertainment purely because it became popular.

Throughout the years, numerous articles have fallen victim to the SACS administration. Of all banned items, the best known is the hacky-sack, which became infamous for canceling classes and causing widespread panic throughout Aboite township. Oh wait, it didn't do any of that. In reality, I could cause a bigger disruption with one pencil than all the hacky-sacks in Southwest Allen County combined. All the hacky-sack did was occupy time before school and in between class periods; for this, it was eliminated. There were very few instances of hacky-sacks leading to drug usage, bullying, arson, or other disruptive practices.

While I don't particularly enjoy hacky-sacks or nuggeting, I can't see what harm either causes. Although nugging was reaching epidemic proportions, it caused little disruption. Anything can be disruptive, if a student wants it to be disruptive: banning certain harmless forms of entertainment isn't going to solve anything.

I have a few theories about why the administration bans practices like nugging. They are as follows:

Number 1: They like banning things. My support for this statement is they also banned punching people in the leg, and using zippers to close up book bags. I mean, come on. Including stuff like that is proof that the administration is desperate for things to ban.

Number 2: They hate people having fun in school. If any of you have attended school recently, it's completely believable that no one wants you to have fun here.

Now, although I'm giving the school a hard time, I'll try to be fair. If the school is purely interested in stopping all disruptions, I'll give them a few steps to take. Actually, I wouldn't be surprised if some of these steps are already being implemented. Here goes:

Eliminate passing period. Instead, keep everyone in the same classroom all day. Passing periods are very disruptive to the learning process.

Eliminate windows and other forms of contact with the outside world. Everyone knows that the outside world is only a disruption.

Eliminate daydreaming.

Make paying attention mandatory.

Eliminate pencils that require pencil sharpeners, so you don't have anyone standing up except at the beginning or end of the day.

Eliminate the raising of hands and the asking of questions, because this is the number one classroom disruption.

Have lunches delivered to the classrooms. Give students only one choice, so they don't waste time standing in lines or choosing their meals. Then eliminate lunches during school altogether so time isn't wasted eating.

After you've done all of this, change the schedule so that school will run for 180 straight days without interruption. Students will be housed in their assigned classrooms and allotted six hours a night for sleeping, studying, and homework. They will still not be allowed to leave their desks, because standing will be strictly prohibited for most of the day. Students will have a thirty minute standing period each day that will also be their only bathroom break. This thirty minute standing period will involve intense cardio-workouts to prevent the muscular atrophy that would accompany 180 straight days of sitting down. Then muscular atrophy and going to the bathroom will be banned so that this 30 minute grace period can be eliminated.

Getting sick, the number 2 interruption of all time, will be banned.

The weather, which is also troublesome, will be banned.

Teachers, who have faults because they are human, will be replaced with machines that will be able to teach the students much more efficiently.

Students, who have faults because they are human, will be replaced with machines that will be able to learn much more efficiently without any interruption whatsoever.

And that's it. I wholly expect a letter of thanks from the administration for giving them so many helpful hints. But, to tell you the truth, I stole the idea about the robots from them.

Evan Childers is a senior and works as a writer for the Spartana. *The views and opinions expressed in this column do not necessarily represent those of* the Spartana *or of its staff.*

christy landrigan

NAND sponsors evening of modern sophistication

Maria Didier
Intern Writer

Building a community without drugs and alcohol is the primary goal of the parent organization group, NAND. The organization has been coming up with different ideas to get high school students involved with the school. NAND has put on many parties at Buckets as well as set up a dodge ball game, a few picnics from time to time, and many more fun activities. They have now decided to invite high school students the Fort Wayne Museum of Art on February 19. Mandy Andrews is in charge of the art museum project and social worker Anita Gross is also helping to make the evening possible. The museum exhibits art from 1888 to art in our modern society.

"The Fort Wayne Museum of Art offers an exciting array of art experiences for everyone," according to the website for the Fort Wayne Museum of Art.

The museum is a place to enrich people of all ages in culture as well as history of Fort Wayne. A Chicago architect, Walter Netsch, did not build the Fort Wayne Museum of Art until 1984. The museum did not exist as a building; however, the paintings and drawings in the museum were from an informal art school during the 1888. Later, the art school became known as the Fort Wayne Museum of Art School. The museum did not function as a gathering until 1921 and did not separate with the school until 1977. The school then became a department of Indiana University Purdue University at Fort Wayne. The museum is committed to exhibiting and collecting works of modern and contemporary American and European artists.

With NAND, students will be able to examine new spectacles that are in the museum for a short while as well as old exhibits. Besides looking at art exhibits, NAND will be providing a band for students to listen to, food, and a few movies.

"We have been trying to do a different variety of activities for students," Gross said.

In addition to the exhibits, food, band, and movies, NAND will be creating a mural in the art museum.

"We thought the art the museum would be a different approach," Gross said.

As of right now, NAND will be charging about a $5 fee to enter the activities they have planned. Gross is hoping they will find a sponsor so the students will not have to pay. Despite the fact that NAND is only promoting the activity at school, students from Homestead are allowed to invite any high school student to come and join the activities at the Fort Wayne Museum of Art.

"They will need to have their own transportation," Gross said.

NAND is not planning on selling tickets and students do not need to bring their high school ID to museum. Activities start at 8:00 p.m. and end at 11:00 p.m. Many exhibits will be showing at the art museum while NAND has other activities going on. From now through March 20, visitors are able to view Red Grooms exhibit.

"This exhibition covers over forty years of printmaking by one of the best-known American artists working today," according to the website for the Fort Wayne Museum of Art.

Many of Groom's art have a witty sense of humor and folk idiom. Features in his work are drawings, prints, and watercolors. Another new exhibit that was showing until February 6 is Unexpected Moments. This display demonstrated sculptures of changing, moving, and evolving objects.

Other new exhibits include the illustrations of Paul Bunyan, The Scholastic Art Awards 2005, *Walking in the Footsteps* by Stephen Marc, A Look at Diversity in Fort Wayne, and Photographs by Chan Chao and Steve Linsenmayer. NAND is hoping students will take a look at the Scholastic Art exhibit because the works of art are from young students.

To make a pleasant visit, the Fort Wayne Museum of Art relies on the help of their tour guide staff.

"The FWMA docents (tour guides) are an important part of the museum's outreach program, helping the museum provide tours to 11,000-18,000 students and adults annually. In some cases, docents provide school children with their first experience with art," stated the website for the Fort Wayne Museum of Art.

Anyone is able to visit the museum Tuesday through Sunday, depending on time, for $3 if a student, and $5 for adults. Setting up activities for students is one way NAND has tried to prevent students from falling under the pressure of alcohol and drugs. Parents have taken responsibility by joining NAND to keep their children in a known and safe environment. For parents to find out more information on NAND and on drugs and alcohol, there will be a parent meeting on February 23. The museum allows NAND to educate students as well as provide an enjoyable trip.

«Teen Club Art Night will feature local teens' artwork, graffiti, bands, and movies.

«The large dining area and large big screen TV's. BW's feels like a Buckets on steroids. The TV's are easier to see and are more plentiful.

photos/ryan rahrig

» Come spring, this sight will be seen on our end of town, next to Coventry 13.

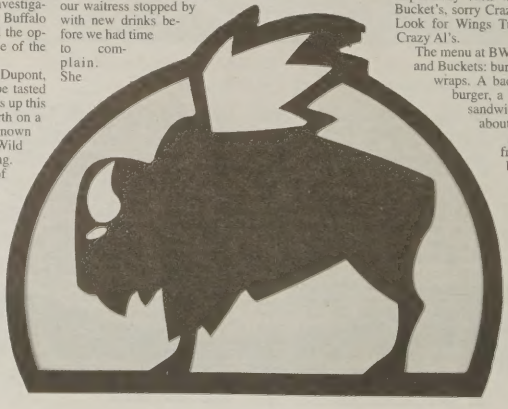
Josh Zurawski
Co-Editor in Chief

Traveling by the Coventry 13 dollar theater on a food run taken to relieve our tummies of hungriness during a paste-up, the food review squad couldn't help but notice the building under construction. Upon further investigation, we discovered it was a restaurant, namely Buffalo Wild Wings, but more importantly, it presented the opportunity to relieve our tummies at the expense of the Spartans.

With a location on the corner of Lima and Dupont, knew the goods of Buffalo Wild Wings must be tasted before the new location on our end of town opens up this spring. We made the fifteen minute trek out north on a Monday and arrived at BW's (the nickname is known and popular in every city that has a Buffalo Wild Wings) around seven, the prime hour for dining. Expecting an empty house considering the day of the week, we were pleasantly surprised to see five other tables already dining.

The atmosphere was noticeably better than Crazy Al's Buffalo Wings (located near Taco Bell) and a bit better than Buckets. With about the same number of big screen televisions as Buckets, we weren't shocked to see three different basketball games being screened more than once, but Shrek 2 certainly caught us by surprise. We guess the little guys need their entertainment too. Once seated, we immediately noticed the bonus of BW's: the TV's surround the dining area, as opposed to Bucket's, where the TV's are sporadic at best.

Caught up in the plethora of screens, we barely noticed our waitress, who came almost immediately upon seating to take our drink orders. With cherry cokes around the table, we made her life a little easier. Our first and only complaint of the night was the taste of our first round of drinks, which was funny. About five minutes after bringing our first round of drinks, our waitress stopped by with new drinks before we had time to complain. She explained that there had been a problem with the pop machines. Our only complaint was fixed before we could complain.



We ordered two-dozen of the medium wings for $6.99, which was plenty as an appetizer for four people. Each wing had an obscene amount of chicken, but more importantly each wing was insanely delicious. Sorry Bucket's, sorry Crazy Al, but BW's has the best wings. Look for Wings Tuesdays, BW's cheaper version of Crazy Al's.

The menu at BW's is extremely similar to Crazy Al's and Buckets: burgers, spicy chicken sandwiches, and wraps. A bacon cheddar burger, a BBQ bacon burger, a fish sandwich, and a spicy chicken sandwich were ordered. The food arrived in about ten minutes.

A little bummed with the lack of fries with our meals, we dug in. The burgers were up to par, the spicy chicken compared to Crazy Al's, and the fish sandwich was surprisingly good. After destroying our meals, the realization set in: fries would have been too much. We coughed up the 44 dollars as a group for the bill and tip and left knowing we had all ate far too much for 11 dollars a person.

Watch out. BW's is more enjoyable than the popular sports hangout, Buckets. BW's does, amazingly, have better wings than Crazy Al, whoever that guy is anyway. Watch out. Tuesdays will be the new Wednesdays.

BWs (bee-dubs) buffalo wild wings

«Left: the imaginary winged buffalo, seen all over BW's. Right: the carry-out counter, another bonus found only at BW's.

Student finds satisfaction in helping SPCA

Jenn Stanley (12) devotes time, emotions to care for lost, sick animals at shelter

Lee Farnsworth
Writer

Jenn Stanley (12) wears shorts and a T-shirt as she sits in a chair in her living room. She has just returned from a yoga class and has put her dog in his pen because a stranger is conducting an interview in the next room. All through the interview the dog whines to be let out and be reunited with her master. The dog's devotion to Stanley is obvious, and after a few questions, it was noticeable that the dedication is not surprising. Stanley is devoted in turn to all animals, as is shown by Stanley's volunteer work at the Allen County branch of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ACSPCA).

The ACSPCA provides a home for stray, abused, or otherwise homeless cats and dogs. The organization provides necessities for animals without homes and runs an adoption program.

"We basically provide shelter, medication, veterinary services, and everything else the animals need right here," Lynn Gunder, an employee of the ACSPCA said. "We take them in if they are abused, neglected, ill, or unwanted. We get them up to par on health and sociability and then get them adopted."

Stanley volunteered at the shelter during her freshman and sophomore years at Homestead.

"My family has really instilled in me a love of animals," Stanley said. "We've always had animals around; [it] is just natural to me. I have two cats, and one of them is a stray who just wandered up to our door one day."

Because the ACSPCA is a not-for-profit organization, in order to function it relies heavily on donations from the community and volunteer work.

"We run by donation only so there's only a very small handful here (at the shelter) that are actually employees, the rest are all volunteers," Gunder said. "Without them the place couldn't run."

In addition, the ACSPCA does not euthanize animals, meaning that the animals stay at the shelter until they find a home. This policy was also one of the main reasons Stanley chose to volunteer at the shelter.

"In my opinion, the animals have just as much of a right to life as people do," Stanley said.

This love of animals served Stanley well as a volunteer. Stanley worked mostly with cats, due to her age and experience at the shelter. Some of her duties included attempting to make stray or abused cats more social and caring for cats with illnesses. Stanley also cleaned up after the animals during her time at the shelter.

Although the effects of the shelter may not be visible to most, Gunder and Stanley agree that it is a very necessary organization. The shelter keeps animals that could potentially cause traffic accidents off of the streets, or animals that contract diseases that may potentially spread infections to domesticated animals.

Besides simply providing a home for the animals, the shelter also tries to find owners for the animals through adoption. Both cats and dogs at the shelter are up for adoption by the public. Interested parties are able to meet with the animal, and fill out a request to adopt the animal. If approved, the animal is released in 24 to 48 hours. For Stanley, the thought of adoption brings mixed emotions.

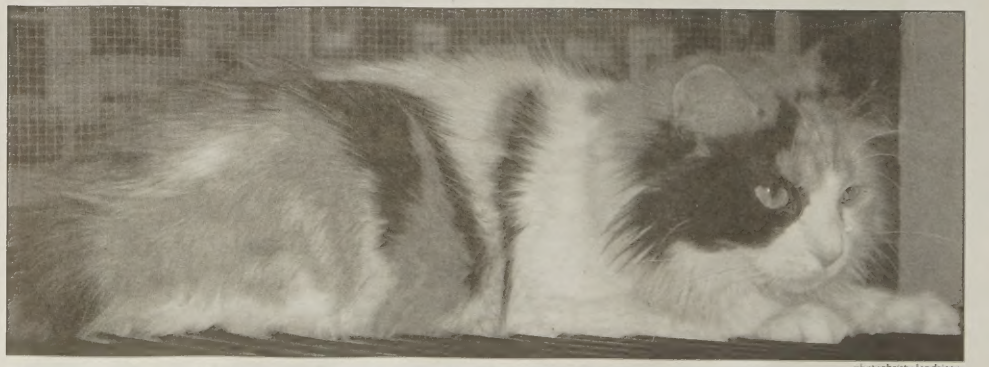
"Of course I'm excited when animals get a home, and I think it's great," Stanley said, "but it's also sad because you know you'll probably never see that animal again."

Stanley's experiences at the shelter have taught her a great deal. She learned that she was not suited for veterinary medicine, because the thought of seeing sick and dying animals every day was simply too much for her to bear.

"Animals are very different from people," Stanley said. "They can tell what kind of a person you are. You can't scare them into submission, you have to befriend them and gain their trust."

Stanley's passion for animals made volunteering worthwhile because she was doing something that she enjoyed, something she cared about, and something that mattered to her.

Students interested in volunteering may easily get involved. Simply call the ACSPCA, and attend a general information and training day at the center. After learning about the organization, students may fill out a form with contact information. If under 18, the shelter will expect a guardian to sign with you. Volunteering at the SPCA is an enjoyable way to help the community for anyone who enjoys animals.



photochristy landrigan

Currently, about ten cats like this good-natured calico are staying at the ASPCA on South Hanna Street in downtown Fort Wayne.

Gee, you knit?

Obtaining its name from the popular rap group, G-Unit, a new knitting club has surfaced under the efforts of Katie Beck (12) as she takes advantage of the ALPHA mentorship program

Christy Landrigan
Surplus Editor

What did 50 Cent say to Snoop Dogg when he saw the rapper putting on a sweater?

"Hey, G, you knit?"

The above joke has aided in transforming knitting from the outdated, mundane pastime of grandmothers to a trendy, productive way to pass the time or relieve stress.

Karen Frederickson, president of the Fort Wayne Knitting Guild, says that a knitting phenomenon in her twenties inspired the current knitting craze among teens.

"One of the big designers right now and maybe for the last five years is a woman who is in her late twenties," Frederickson said. "Her focus is designing knitwear for young people that fits into their fashion. That has helped to bring a lot of young knitters in."

In fact, she says, knitting is growing in popularity.

"Actually, the teenage group is the fastest growing group of knitters," Frederickson said. "It's really hot on college campuses as well."

Because of the popularity of the pastime among teens, Frederickson would like to incorporate younger knitters into her group.

"We would welcome students to join or group or we would be happy to start a junior group," Frederickson said.

> "One day I was just like 'Why don't I just start a knitting club and get every one involved?'"
>
> Katie Beck (12)

Her vision is of a group that would meet on a week night to develop their skills as knitters and to learn about new techniques.

"The meetings would probably be at least two hours long and very informal for beginners as well as people who have a good understanding of knitting," Frederickson said. "Any skill level would be invited."

Frederickson shares her vision for an organized group of teen knitters with Katie Beck (12), who recently began her senior ALPHA Mentorship to develop a knitting club of some sort at this school.

"Basically I noticed that knitting was becoming really popular at Homestead and I wanted to do an ALPHA Mentorship," Beck said. "One day I was just like 'Why don't I just start a knitting club and get every one involved?'"

After developing the idea, she spoke to Gayle Bloom for approval.

"Mrs. Bloom is the guidance person at Homestead who approved it and all that. She supervises the mentorships," Beck said.

Gathering her ideas was the first step in the process; Beck says that she has planning ahead of her to get the group off of the ground.

"I have to talk to the person at the YMCA who is actually going to be my mentor to help me get it started, advertise, get the space ready and everything else that I'll need to do," Beck said.

Making contacts with experienced knitters has proved to be helpful, because the more experienced knitters are enthusiastic about sharing their hobby with others.

"I talked to Mrs. Frederickson about it, and we're basically going to work together to focus our energies toward the group," Beck said. "She'll be the experience behind it and she'll be teaching me a lot of things that I don't know how to do. A lot of the ladies from the Cass Street Depot, a yarn store downtown, are involved with the Guild and might help as well."

Frederickson and Beck's combined efforts to develop a group will soon be put into action at the Jorgensen YMCA on Aboite Center Road. Details are still being discussed, but Beck has a general idea of how the group will be run.

"It's going be weekly, probably on Wednesday nights or in the evenings at the Jorgensen YMCA, and it's open to anyone even if they've never knit before," Beck said. "We want to encourage everyone."

She says that she began knitting after admiring the handiwork of one of her friends last year.

"During my junior year I was friends with Perry Clark ('04)," Beck said. "One day he wore a hat that I loved and he told me that he made it, so I basically demanded that he teach me to knit. So, the next night he taught me and it basically just escalated from there."

Since learning the skill, she has taken cues from Clark who was known to sell his individually made hats, turning it into a small entrepreneurial effort.

"Last year, I'd take hat and scarf orders. I've sold some this year, but not as many as I did last year," Beck said. "I think Mrs. Moake might buy a scarf from me—she really likes one that I made."

(Beck is pictured wearing the scarf that Moake admires).

Currently, Beck is learning to expand her skills and the products of her efforts.

"I've made hats, scarves, and a purse, I just made some socks, and I'm working on some mittens," Beck said.

The socks presented a welcome challenge, but she laughs at the finished pair.

"Next time, I'll be better because I've talked to some one who actually knows how to turn a sock," Beck said.

Just as she learned from a friend, she has found herself passing the skill on to others.

"I've taught a lot of people—a lot of people knit now," Beck said. "Audrey Nicholson (12), Kathryn Zachman (11), Midas Moore (11), Jeff Mason (12), and Matt Witham (12) all know how. That's such a good example of how popular it has become--the football players who knit."

» Katie Beck (12) shows off some of the many objects that she has knitted.

New Club Procedures

Beginning a new club is a somewhat complex task that requires organization and persistence. Like Katie Beck (12), who is attempting to establish a knitting club through the Mentorship program, students desiring to create new student activities must be willing to devote energy and enthusiasm to reach their goal. According to Beck, a passion for the focus of the group is also important.

"It really isn't as hard as it might sound as long as you're interested in what you're doing. It's not work at all--it's just kind of fun," said Beck.

In order to be school-sanctioned, individuals seeking to initiate a new activity or club must follow the guidelines written in the Student Handbook. The following are steps required to begin a new club or activity, according to page 79 the Student Handbook.

1. A group of interested students should contact the administrator in charge of student activities to inform him/her of its intentions and discuss the procedure. At this time the group of interested students will also be made aware of the fact that any new club/activity must be tied to our curriculum in order to be approved.
2. A faculty advisor must be obtained; the administrator in charge of student activities may have a recommendation or the students may know of an interested teacher.
3. The teacher who is willing to serve as club advisor must write a letter indicating his/her willingness. This will be in a filed in a club folder with the administrator in charge of student activities.
4. The students would then schedule a meeting of "interested students" (with the advisor present) to establish the approximate number of the "interest group."
5. At this meeting, the purposes or objectives of the club should be decided.
6. The purposes or objectives should then be presented to the Student Government. Student Government will then present the proposal to the administration for approval.
7. Once the proposal is approved by the administration, the students and advisers may begin to structure a constitution.
8. The constitution should be presented to Student Government for ratification. Once the constitution is approved, a formal club will be established.
9. The club constitution should be filed in duplicate in the principal's office.
10. The club advisor should then contact the school treasurer regarding the opening of a new account.
11. All officers should be recorded in the principal's office.

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the Spartana

Saving Salvador
Chapel members head south for spring break.
p.8A

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A SPARTAN GAMBLING©

The fad that is defining our generation has its hold on the student body

Josh Zurawski
Co-Editor in Chief

Clack! Clack! Clack!

The three newcomers toss their antes in last, unused to the fast pace of the regulars. Clad in Oakley's and Aviators, Cubs and cowboy hats, the three get dressed up for the occasion, desperately wanting to fit in. The soft rifle of the shuffling cards hides the regulars' hushed chuckles, who all openly assure the three fish this tournament is no World Series of Poker.

The cards now float facedown, one at a time, across the smooth table. The fish quickly peek at their cards, unaware the regulars' eyes are probing for any tiny bit of information that will give their hand away. A few fishy smiles later, betting begins. Following a few folds and a couple calls, a regular raises, taking control of the hand. The new dude in the shades contemplates raising, hoping to steal the pot. After all, he's seen the move made successfully a plethora of times on ESPN. Soon enough, the words escape his mouth.

"All-in."

The regular who originally raised darts his opponent a quick stare. Perfect. The all-in bet is matched, and the regular starts raking in the pot before even seeing the newbie's cards. His head spinning, the fish walks away from the table ten dollars lighter.

In a matter of minutes, the student lost two hours of his last paycheck, or two lunches, or half a tank of gas. Minutes later, another student will be out of the tournament, losing ten dollars. If it's any sort of game being played at Homestead, five or six others will lose ten dollars, and the top three finishers will walk away with some extra spending money.

"The buy-ins for our tournaments range anywhere from 10-25 bucks," Viraj Verma (12) said.

In a world where a ten thousand dollar buy-in tournament is televised on ESPN, and the winner is celebrated as a national hero, it's no surprise that kids are spending ten dollars to become a local hero. But the game can spiral out of control if no or high limits are set.

"Usually there is a dollar ante and twenty dollar max pot when we play cash games," Verma said. "But you have to be careful because a few bad calls put you in the whole a lot."

The most skilled players will always want to play no or high limit for obvious reasons. Fish, like the ones described earlier, can lose big money if they are not aware of their competition's skill.

"[Inexperienced players] may bet lucky in the early going, but after a long period of time they always lose," Chris Copley (12), who is in his fourth year of playing said.

Skilled players love the challenge of playing against each other, but most would rather face easy opponents to make money.

"It's an easy way to make money if you are playing with a lot of bad kids who don't know how to play," Kyle Newcomb (9) said.

Some groups do set a friendly limit to ensure that the goal is a good time, not to make a week's wage in one night.

"Usually we'll buy in for 5 or 10 dollars," Dylan Currie (9) said. "There hasn't been a time I lost a lot of money."

If the limit is set around five dollars, kids are spending no less than if they stopped by Rave to see a flick – and to some, poker is a much more enjoyable time.

"I enjoy poker because of the excitement level and the risk involved," Copley said.

Poker, the game of skill and some chance, makes more sense than chancing drugs and other illegal activities, which can be far more expensive and much more risky.

"When you're playing poker the worst thing that can happen is you lose some money," Copley said. "You're not off drinking or doing drugs."

Even though the stakes may get out of control at a few tables, most poker games allow high school students to have an enjoyable night with friends without the dangers and enormous monetary downfalls of other illegal activities.

Students vote only for class officers; election processes changed

Dillon Kimmel
News Editor

Executive board elections were dealt with a little differently this year in Student Government. Instead of having the students voting for Executive Board members, the student government as a whole voted for the executive board officers.

"We decided to make this change to put more qualified people in the main positions," constitutional committee chair Larry Buchanan (10) said. "By only student government voting for executive board, it reduces the popularity contest, and the people in student government know who would be fit for the job more than the students."

The issue of a popularity vote has been raised before, and Student Government has been criticized in the past because of the executive board members who were chosen by the student body.

Buchanan responds to critics who believe their rights are being taken away.

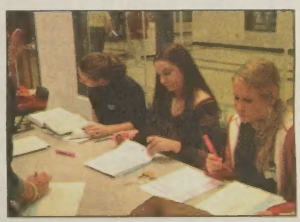
"Students are able to vote for their class officers and representatives who could potentially be executive board members," Buchanan said. "In an indirect way people are voting for their executive board."

The members of the executive board include the student body president and vice president, secretary, public relations officer, and the treasurer.

Student Government members voted on February 18 and the winners were announced that afternoon. The executive board for the 2005-06 school year will be as follows: executive board president will be Anna Menze (11), the vice president will be Larry Buchanan (10), the secretary will be Ryan Cicero (10), the public relations officer will be Melissa Emmons (10), and Galen Harden (10) will be the treasurer.

To qualify for an executive board position, a candidate must have at least one year of experience in Student Government. The president, vice president, and Treasurer must have two years of experience. The president must be in Student Government during his or her junior year. Both the public relations officer and the secretary must have one year of experience.

All class officer and representatives will still be voted upon by the student body. The process for voting stays the same for these candidates, with students voting at lunch for their specific class officers and representatives.



» Katey O'Connor (12), Ann McCullough (12), and Alli Matheis (12) administer student voting on February 18.

International Club celebrates school's diversity, increases cultural awareness

Suhasini Bhargava
Co-Editor in Chief

In 1782 Hector de Crevecoeur, a French settler in New York City coined the phrase 'melting pot,' when he described his vision for the United States of America: a land where people of multiple different races, ethnic groups, and nationalities blended together to form a singular culture. De Crevecoeur's melting pot paradigm can be observed today in the high school hallways of suburban Indiana through the establishment of the newly founded International Club.

Advised by English As A Second Language (ESL) teacher Lana Sipe, the International Club is an organization that celebrates the diversity in language, culture, and ethnicity found among the students of this high school. The organization held its first meeting on Thursday, February 24, 2005, to welcome members, establish procedures, and decide upon specific goals for the remainder of the school year. Official objectives for the club are the following: increase cultural awareness, learn about other traditions and customs, explore diversity through social interaction, and have fun.

Participation in the International Club was encouraged for all students, regardless of students' ethnic background and ancestry. Natives of foreign lands as well as students interested in learning about unfamiliar cultures were invited to attend the club's first meeting.

The idea behind establishing the International Club was brought up first in Sipe's fifth period ESL class. Collectively, David Rahimi (10), Saidu Kumara (11), Ana Ponce (11), Khushwant Kaur (10), and Sasha Kuraev (10) decided upon starting a club that catered to their interests in the culture of teenagers from around the world.

"Words can't express how I feel," ESL student Jose Yanez (12) said. "It's a warm feeling inside when I hear 'International Club.'"

Although Sipe is sponsoring this new organization, the core group of students mentioned earlier is the driving force behind the planning and execution of the concept of the International Club.

"The kids came up to me and said 'we need to have a club for kids like us,'" Sipe said. "They don't feel like they belong anywhere."

One of the ideas for the club's activities includes presentations of cultures from different countries during alternating weeks.

"The kids want to meet every other week and pick a country for each meeting," Sipe said. "Saidu wants to bring in African music, dancing, and food when he presents his country."

Currently, members of the International Club represent countries including Poland, India, South Korea, Mexico, Russia, Croatia, China, Puerto Rico, Germany, Afghanistan, Liberia, Ukraine, and Bosnia among others. Membership extends beyond involvement of foreign exchange students to participation by permanent students at this school who find their cultural backgrounds in subcultures.

"I belonged to a club like this in high school and the only foreign kids we had would be foreign exchange students," Sipe said. "This is going to be different because we have kids who live here and go to Homestead on a regular basis but have originally come to the United States from different countries."

A true celebration of culture and diversity, the International Club has given a niche to culture enthusiasts throughout the school.

"The ethnicity level at Homestead is vast and there is a wealth of information that these kids have to offer," Sipe said.

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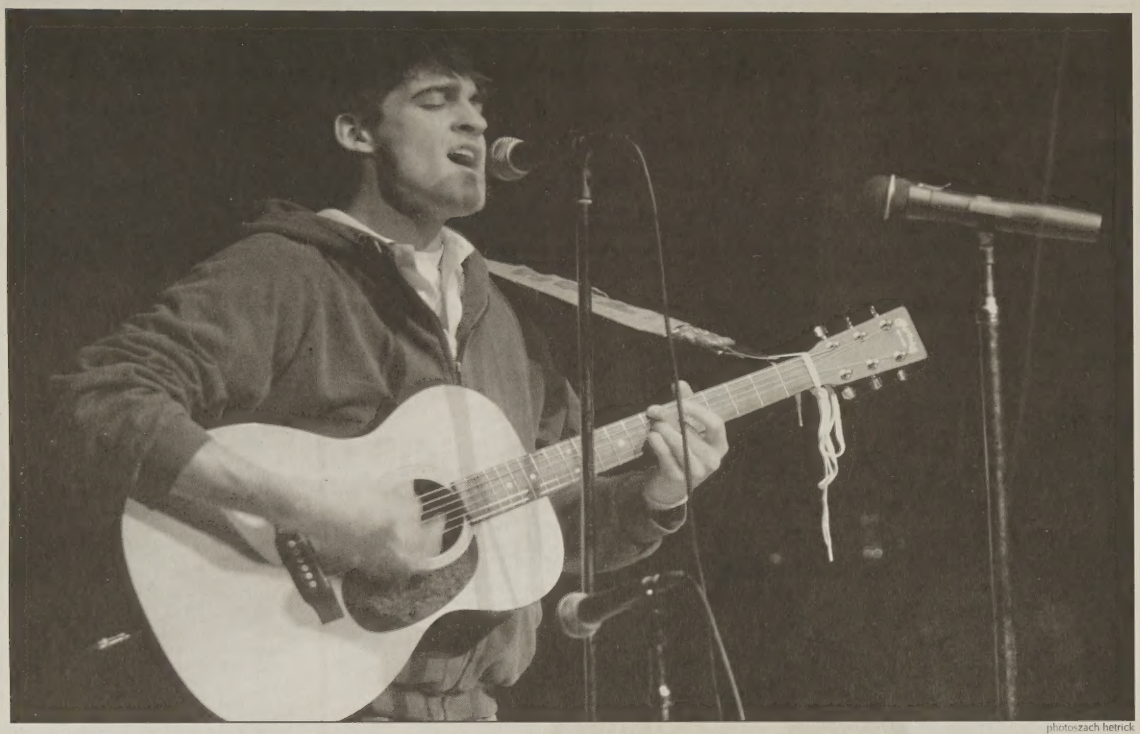


photo:zach hetrick

⁂ The song "A View from the Top" is performed by Chris Miller (11) at the variety show. Miller wrote the song after the deaths of Justin Maroney and J.P. Kindel.

Variety show rocked school auditorium

Organized by theater department, annual event included snare drum solo, cultural dances, numerous band performances

Katie Corson
Writer

It was about 6:30 Thursday night, February 10 when the seats of the school's auditorium began to fill for the variety show.

Originally, the show had been scheduled for the prior evening, but was delayed a day because of a school cancellation. Despite the rescheduling, many parents and students turned out to see the show.

The variety show is held at school every year, and auditions are open to all students. Dance performances, skits, vocal performances, and comedy acts make up the variety show.

The emcees of this year's show were Katie Beck (12), Victor Kee (12), Zach Nemeroff (11), Jesse Parker (11), and Sam Linsmeyer (12). This year's show also incorporated video skits shown on the auditoriums projection screen.

"Jesse and I wrote a lot of the skits," Nemeroff (11) said. "Like the spin off of Seinfeld at the beginning of the show. We actually came up with that for last year's variety show, but didn't get a chance to use it until this year."

The unique group of students involved in creating the show made for an entertaining performance.

"We just all got together at Arby's one day, and spent a lot of time talking about different ideas we could include in the show," Nemeroff said. "A lot of the stuff we came up with just came from us all sitting around saying, 'we should do this or that,' and what you saw was the stuff that worked out. Tony Carpenter also helped us out a lot. He put in a lot of time working on filming and editing."

Mike Dutton (11), Brad Crossland (12), John Ehler (11), and Brian Mack (12) started the night off with their performance of "Tears of Phoenix." They were followed by Jocelyn Gauthier's (12) performance. Gauthier played the piano while singing "Only Hope," accompanied by Kee on the violin.

"I really like the song," Gauthier said. "I already knew how to play it and I don't think it's a very difficult song, so I wasn't very nervous. All the performances were so different, and I think everyone did a great job."

The following act was one of two dance performances. Chelsea Heyer (10), Sarah Alkhairy ('04), Reemah Alkhairy (10), Jenny Bolyard (10), and Jaclyn Nguyen (10) performed their "Dance Medley."

Tom Robertson (11), Jared Andrews (12), and Lynn Nicholson (10) followed them with their musical performance of "Elephants in Mud."

Hillary McBride (11) sang a solo, then Andy Krafcheck (12) played "The Phenomenon of Cool" on a drum; Brooks Frederickson (12) followed by playing guitar and singing "Psycho Killer."

Alex Tordi (9) sang "Close Every Door," followed by Derek Thieme (11) and Kurt Nettleton's (11) vocal performance of "Clandestine Trio."

Following Thieme and Nettleton was the second dance performance of the night, as Kelly Childs (11) executed her tap dance solo. Following Childs was a drum duet by Jack Coleman (11) and Chris Miller (11).

Next was emcee Kee's second performance of the night, as he sang a solo, accompanied by Jon Swain (11) on guitar. Swain played guitar for Kim Gibson (11) as she sang "Waiting on an Angel."

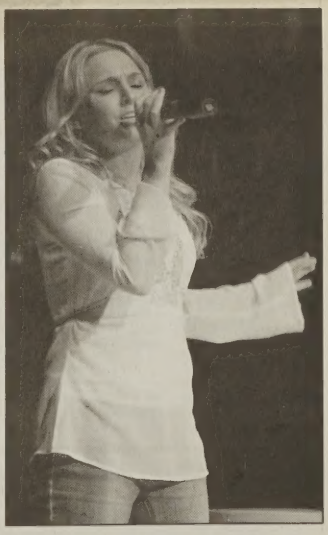
"I was nervous before I sang, but in a good way," Gibson (11) said. "The nervous you get in sports, like before a big game. I was very pleased with my performance, and I had a lot of fun."

Finishing out the evening was Chris Miller's (11) vocal performance of "A View from the Top." Miller dedicated his performance "to my two friends; Justin and JP."

Logan Derck (10), Zak Labas (10), Trent Gard (12), Swain, and Kee ended the evening with their performance of "Money."

Variety Show Lineup

TEARS OF THE PHOENIX
ONLY HOPE
DANCE MEDLEY
ELEPHANTS IN MUD
HILLARY MCBRIDE SOLO
THE PHENOMENON OF COOL
THE GRAFFENBURGS
CLOSE EVERY DOOR
CLANDESTINE TRIO
KELLY CHILDS DANCE SOLO
COLEMAN, MILLER DRUM DUET
VICTOR KEE, JON SWAIN
KIM GIBSON, JON SWAIN
A VIEW FROM THE TOP
MONEY



⁂ Hillary McBride (11) sings a solo during the Variety Show held on February 10. McBride was one of six solo acts.

photo:zach hetrick

⁂ A student cleans the windshield of his car after a large snowstorm cancelled school. If further cancellations occur, seniors might have to receive blank diplomas at graduation. As it stands, school is over on Friday, June 10 and graduation is scheduled for the next day on June 11 at the memorial coliseum.

Further school closings could lead to diploma dilemma

Seniors might receive incomplete diplomas if graduation precedes last day of school

Austin Hetrick
Writer

Fog, snow, and ice have all taken their toll on the school's attendance record in the last few months. From iced roads to visibility of a few feet, Indiana has experienced a winter far beyond average. And with the many delays and cancellations, the graduation day promises to hold some interesting choices for the administration.

School was cancelled on January 4, January 6, January 7, February 4, and February 9. Make-up days include Martin Luther King Day, Presidents' Day, and June 8-10.

The school year as it stands will end Friday, June 10, while graduation day in the Coliseum (which cannot be moved in any circumstance) is set on June 11. This situation means that, if one more day is lost to cancellation, seniors will technically not have enough days to graduate. The guidance department will recommend, in this situation, blank diplomas be handed out to seniors at the graduation ceremony.

"In the past 18 years while I've been here Homestead has never had to hand out blank diplomas," guidance counselor Tom Quigley said.

Quigley added that the guidance department would recommend (to the administration) handing students cover sheets only at the graduation ceremony should another day be cancelled.

"We would hand out the diplomas, without signatures, and then mail the full diploma to the students after all finals had been completed," Quigley said.

Some teachers and students have asked why the administration has not petitioned the state government for a waiver to some of the days. Also possible, this situation is rare, according to Quigley.

"When we petitioned the last time it was when there was state-wide snow days...several days straight, and that hasn't necessarily happened yet," Quigley said.

The administration and school board will still have to make the final decision should another day be missed, but everyone involved hopes it does not come to that.

The real conflict for the administration in this circumstance comes for those students whose grades are lying so close to graduation that their very diploma lies on their senior-year final.

Within the next few weeks, the students and administration may have to decide, should we miss another day, what should be done about graduation.

Variety show. 2A • Revised Bell Schedule. 5A • Social Security. 6A • Trip to San Salvador. 8A
you are here ▲

Global Briefs

— Great Wall of China —

The legend that ancient Chinese craftsmen used glutinous rice porridge in the mortar while building ramparts has been verified. Archaeologists researching an ancient wall around the city of Xi'an, a former imperial capital and home to the famed terra cotta warriors, were stumped by the ingredients of a resilient mortar holding bricks together. The hardened paste reacted similarly to glutinous, or sticky, rice in chemical tests.

— BTK Murder —

Dennis Rader, the man suspected of being the infamous BTK killer, appeared via a video link Tuesday as a judge read 10 first-degree murder charges against him. BTK suspect charged with 10 murders. Rader is charged a string of murders across three decades attributed to the self-named BTK killer, whose signature was a preference to bind, torture and kill his victims. The earliest was in 1974; the last linked to BTK was in 1991. Prosecutors cannot seek the death penalty because it was reinstated in Kansas in 1994, three years after the last known BTK killing.

— Michael Jackson —

Michael Jackson's trial began on Monday, February 28. Jackson is being tried for child molestation. Allegedly, Jackson molested a 13-year old boy at his Neverland Ranch after showing him adult books and providing him with alcohol. Opening statements began after Superior Court Judge Rodney S. Melville read the indictment to the jury.

— The Oscars —

The Oscars took place on Sunday, February 27th, with host Chris Rock. Rating for the event, aired in ABC, went up, after years of low viewer turnout. Big winners were *Million Dollar Baby*, with best director going to Clint Eastwood, best actress going to Hillary Swank, and supporting actor going to Morgan Freeman. *Million Dollar Baby* also won best picture. Jamie Foxx won best actor in *Ray*, and *The Aviator* also scored big with Cate Blanchett for supporting actress.

— Hariri Assassinated —

Former Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik Hariri was assassinated on February 14 by a suicide bomber. Militants aided by Syria have been blamed for Hariri's death, although the nation denies any wrong doing. Hariri's assassination as caused much uproar in the region, and created more tensions between Syria and the US.

— Jose Canseco's Book —

Jose Canseco released a new book, in which he accuses many players of using steroids. He claims he personally injected himself, and other players, in the past and is now revealing the truth. *Juiced: Wild Times, Rampant 'Roids, Smash Hits & How Baseball Got Big*, was already a top seller on its release day. Canseco has since appeared on *60 Minutes*, in which he once again accused many players.

— NHL Season Cancelled —

On February 16th, the National Hockey League decided to cancel its season after months of negotiations. This was the first time ever that any league has had to cancel an entire season due to labor disputes. They will have lost 207 days to the lockout once the season was set to be over. The main dispute was over whether or not to allow a salary cap, and if so what to set it at. Many hockey enthusiasts were deeply saddened and are not sure when hockey will return.

— Tennis —

2004 Wimbledon Champion Maria Sharapova won her second WTA title this month with a win in Dubai. Sharapova ousted Alicia Molik in the final. Roger Federer won the tournament on the men's side. The US hosts Belgium in the Davis Cup on March 4. The US Davis Cup team consists of Andy Roddick, Andre Agassi, and Mike and Bob Bryan. Agassi was a new addition on the team after coach Patrick McEnroe persuaded the famed American tennis player to join the team. Roddick will also appear on The Tonight Show with Jay Leno on March 7 with Robin Williams.

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Columbine presentation echoes prevalence of school violence

Laura Summers
Writer

On February 15, Dana Scott, sister to a student who lost her life in the shootings at Columbine High School five years ago, came to speak to the school. Several teachers opted to take their students to the auditorium for the presentation held during third period.

Rachel Joy Scott, 17, was Dana's sister, and was one of the thirteen victims of the shootings that occurred on April 20th, 2000, in Littleton Colorado's Columbine High School. The tragedy captivated the nation, and pushed for more security reform in schools. Rachel wanted to show people just how much her religion meant to her.

Ever since the shooting, Dana, along with her father, Darrell Scott, have been traveling the country in attempt to get Rachel's message across. Rachel had a saying: "You just may start a chain reaction." She believed that as she told people of her religious beliefs, they would in turn tell others, and soon everyone would be aware of her beliefs. She thought that even through the smallest acts of kindness, this "chain reaction" would occur.

Rachel left behind a journal entitled "My Ethics, My Codes of Life." Eleven months before she died, she wrote, "This will be the last year, Lord. I have gotten what I can. Thank you."

On the day of the shooting, she drew in one of her journals, a picture in which thirteen tears were falling from a set of eyes to a rose with red drops, which could end up representing the thirteen victims of the shootings.

Rachel's brother, Craig, after the shooting, compared this incident to Jesus and the Twelve Disciples, saying, "Two thousand years ago, there was a teacher and twelve students who impacted the world. Two thousand years later, there was a teacher and twelve students that I believe have really impacted, in a spiritual sense, this generation."

As Dana and Darrell tour the country promoting Rachel's beliefs, they hope to inform students about Rachel's life devoted to Christianity. Dana hopes that the students of the schools she visits realize that they can do just a little bit to make a huge difference.

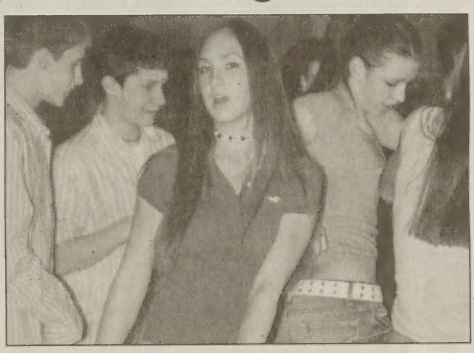
"The cure for the hate that we see so often is love," D. Scott said.

Dana wishes that kids will simply take a little time out of their day to tell someone that they care about them.

It is Dana's hope that Rachel's beliefs will live on through her own story. By students recognizing the effects of the Columbine shooting, incidents such as what occurred on that fateful day in 2000, may never occur again.

» Dana Scott spreads a message of kindness and forgiveness her sister Rachel advocated before she tragically died at Columbine.

Snowcoming week hits HHS



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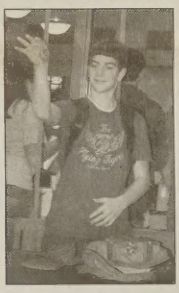


<< Top left: Brigett Gist (9) moves the beat as she dances with a group. Many students arrived at the dance with a group of friends. Above: A student enjoys the dance floor. Far left: Nick Wirtner (10), a member of Student Government, sets up for the dance. This year, sophomores were in charge of putting together the dance. Left: A student dances with a friend.

Kelly Childs
Writer

Every high school student knows what homecoming week is and almost every high school participates in this week, but what about snowcoming? Why did Homestead start celebrating snowcoming week and what is it?

In 2003 student government decided to create a new week of activities for the student body to enjoy. There was a loll in student government activities between semi-formal and prom, so they made a new week of fun. They chose to have a "just because week" in the middle of winter, when spirits are low, the weather is gross, and school spirit is down.

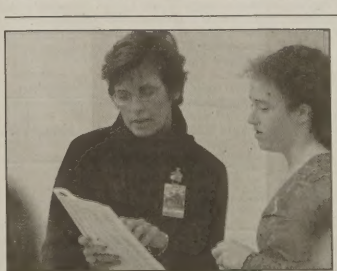
"We wanted to involve students and make them more excited about having a week of fun in the middle of winter when nothing is really happening," Anna Menze (11), junior class vice-president said.

This year's snowcoming week started on Valentine's Day, February 14, and ended with the dance on Friday 18. To celebrate the week, student government assigned each day a special dress day. Prospective ideas were developed by the snowcoming committee and then were presented to the entire student government body. The members voted on their favorites and the top five were chosen. They were then approved by administration and posted around the school. Monday was assigned inside-out day, Tuesday was tie dye day, Wednesday was made college day, Thursday students were encouraged to wear a tee-shirt of their favorite band or group, and Friday was of course blue and gold spirit day.

Each day not only had a special dress code, but also had an activity to participate in at lunch. On Monday students could compete in a hula-hoop contest. The person who kept hooping the longest was awarded a SADD tee-shirt. Tuesday's activity was put-putting. Because of the two-hour delay on Wednesday, no game was held during lunch. A bean bag toss contest was held on Thursday, and Friday students could try their luck with the famous Price is Right game, Plinko.

Students could also buy dessert everyday at lunch during snowcoming week. Each class was able to sell a dessert of their choice for their fund-raiser. Freshmen student government members sold fun dips on Tuesday. Sophomores planned on selling candy necklaces on Wednesday, but the two-hour delay conflicted with their plans. Instead they sold the necklaces in the backroom. On Thursday, juniors sold root beer floats and on Friday, seniors sold dirt pudding cups. These popular treats were made from chocolate pudding, cookie crumbles, whipped cream, and a gummy worm to top it off.

To end the week, student government held a dance. After the basketball game on Friday, students could go to the cafeteria for three hours of dancing to DJ music. This year SADD worked in conjunction with student government and set up a DDR station for students to play while at the dance. The cost to get in was $5 if bought at the door, but pre-dance tickets for the dance were sold throughout the week at lunch for $3. The dance was much like homecoming; it was a casual event where students came with a group of friends.



photozach hetrick

<< Left: Principal Diane Moake shows Grace Lundergan (10) her name on the honor roll breakfast certificate during the freshmen and sophomore honor roll breakfast. The breakfast was held on Thursday instead of Wednesday due to a two hour delay. Students with an 8.0 GPA or above make the honor roll, and students with a 10.0 GPA or above make the distinguished honor roll. Those who are invited to attend the breakfast skip first period. A breakfast for juniors and seniors was held on the following Wednesday. The breakfast was organized by the Parent Club.

New art club begins

Maria Didier
Writer

Throughout the school's history, many clubs have developed through certain departments. This year, the art department has decided to start a club of their own, headed by Sarah Shatto, an art teacher at the school. The art club started this semester and is inviting students to join. Students do not have to be in an art class to join the club. Since Shatto just started the organization, members are beginning to plan projects, activities, and posters.

The main goal of the group is to develop an artistic community among students to learn, grow, and create as individuals and artists. Shatto is hoping to do some murals around the school as well as collages.

"So far people want to learn about technique," Shatto said.

Since the club is new and this is Shatto's first year of teaching, students have not been able to do the fun activities they are planning on doing. The first few meetings are focusing towards developing the clubs constitution, rules, and a list of prospective activities.

"Once we get preliminary schedule, we hope to have a bigger turn out," Shatto said.

So far only two meetings have been in effect. However, Shatto is planning on setting up a meeting once or twice a month.

"I am trying to get a day that will work best for everyone," Shatto said.

The club is eager to learn about the techniques of art that students are unable to receive during a normal art class. Some of the techniques include mixed mediums, community service projects, and an art trip to Chicago. A thought Shatto has proposed is for students to bring in their artwork and do a critique or establish ideas to build on to the art piece. With many ideas being given to Shatto, she has decided to try and get guest artists, speakers, and galleries to come teach the students more about the art forms and facts. An upcoming event for he club members to display their art work is the Spring Art Show.

"We are always open to new ideas," Shatto said.

With the approach of gaining students interested in pursuing art-related careers, the club will help the students collect valuable artifacts for portfolios, personal artist statements, resumes, college applications, and much more. The students will have an opportunity to sell their work as well as show their projects at art shows.

"If we hear of any good local, national, and or state competitions, we can work on projects to enter," Shatto said.

Through the planning of Shatto, the art club was not supposed to start this soon. One student in particular, Jenny Shao (11) presented the idea of making an art club. Since Shatto teaches at a few of the elementary schools, meetings will have to be sporadic due to her difficult schedule and because she is the only teacher advising the club. Club meetings will be held at 3:30 p.m. after Shatto returns to the high school.

Every club needs to have a group of leaders to run the meetings, projects, and trips. Instead of delegating a president and vice president, Shatto would like to see a council made up of student representatives from each grade. Because all clubs have to pay for the activities, every member will have to pay around a minimum of $5 dues unless the club needs more funding.

Although the club is just beginning, many broad and extravagant ideas have come up. Shatto has made the club flexible towards any ideas and suggestions. The club has related the talents of the art students by hoping to do community service projects throughout the county, volunteering at schools, and designing murals.

Election process a popularity contest for voters, those elected

Interaction between student government and student body will allow voters to be more informed

Austin Hetrick
Writer

As my classmates and I sat in second period last Monday, our school's reporters and government representatives told us for the first time that this year, the executive board of our student government would not be voted for by the student body, but instead by the student government itself. The reaction from my class was unanimous; people sneered at the nerve of the student government, changing its own rules and barring one of our "rights." And for the most part, I felt the same.

But after a discussion with my class president, and a few of the student government members, the truth of the situation became clear. This change which my fellow classmates cried "communist, tyrannical, and un-American" was nothing more than the student government doing its best to promote proven leadership in their organization. The government understands the flaws surrounding its election process, and is trying to protect the strongest part of its organization by limiting the election to those already elected.

> "I feel the process behind elections is nothing more than a popularity contest, and that is no way to decide representation of a student body.

But in order to understand the changes that are being made in this group, we must first understand the system. I was somewhat surprised to discover that student government has a constitution. In Article Two of the constitution, it is stated that "the objectives of the Homestead High School Student Government shall be to: provide a democratic format in which students can address school-related issues which affect their lives; maintain a continuous communication channel from the students to the faculty, the administration, and the School Board; offer a year-long program of social functions and community involvement and improvement projects for the students; train members in the duties and responsibilities of good citizenship and leadership, using the school environment as the primary training ground; and provide financial aid/funds to any school club or organization upon discretion of the Student government and recommendation of the Budget Committee."

See related story on 1A

I came to one simple conclusion: the student body doesn't know about its student government because the interaction between students and the government is restricted to social events and elections. And since it doesn't know about its student government (the powers and influence that being a representative has), then why should they really care about what changes are made in the hierarchy?

These changes, however, overshadow the larger problem with student government as a whole. The school's current formula for student government elections has been based around a simple concept: popularity. And if anyone, a member of the organization or otherwise, would like to dispute that point I would enjoy hearing their arguments. Frankly if the best we can do in holding elections before the student body is introduce ourselves on the weekly news and expect the student body to make a judgment based upon that three-seconds of time, well then the organization should not stand to begin with.

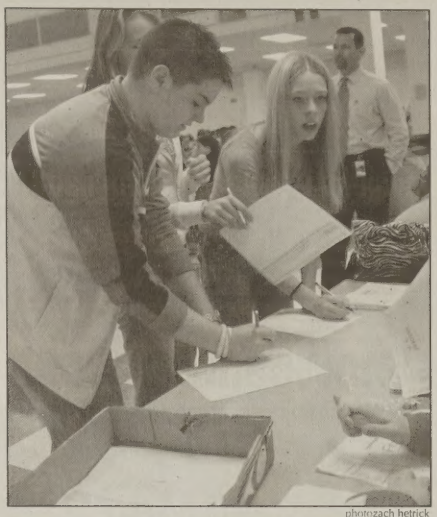
How did our student government come to this? In truth, student government (including ours) serves schools with valuable services. The student governments across America provide the student body with their first taste of the democratic process, allow a select group of students to participate in government and parliamentary procedures, and provides the community with valuable services and school representation. But despite the intentions behind the organization, student government is flawed by its election process.

In the last election at school, I must have missed the speeches that were made by our candidates. I must have missed where they spoke of why they were a good choice to represent our school to the administration, to decide which program should or should not receive funding. I must have missed the part where they asked me for my vote because they were willing to represent the students and the school's name to the best of their ability.

But then again, what difference would that make? I, for one, empathize with those working to help guide our student government. How can 2000 students be made to understand that more important than campaign promises are each candidate's plans and abilities to fulfill their responsibilities and promises. I do not propose that we offer speeches and debates, for those would be a useless waste of time for all involved. Instead, I propose that a student government election segment be published annually in the newspaper and the website. I don't argue that this will completely fix the election system, but it is a first step in a more logical and meaningful vote. All I know is that the system as it remains is, at its heart, a good one; however, the process behind elections is nothing more than a popularity contest, and that is no way to decide representation of a student body. Thus, we must depend on the leadership of those who are elected.

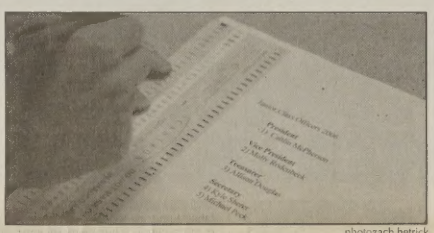
What I say to those in student government now, and those who will be elected in the future, is to understand what it is you are running for. It is more than a position of pride and a nice mark on your transcript. Rather, it is an opportunity for you to represent the ideas, complaints, and protests, however petty, of the student body. And no matter how you have been elected, you must remember that you hold a position of power because someone in history felt that students were capable of faithfully representing all of their peers within this school's walls. That is what you have been entrusted to do, and if you should fail, then student government need not exist.

Austin Hetrick is a sophomore and works as a writer for the Spartana. *The views and opinions expressed in this column do not necessarily represent those of* the Spartana *or of its staff.*



photozach hetrick

Katie Thomas (10) votes for class officers. The student body did not vote for the executive board. A ballot is pictured below.



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2006 Executive Board

President
Anna Menze (11)

Vice President
Larry Buchanan (10)

Treasurer
Galen Harden (10)

Secretary
Ryan Cicero (10)

Public Relations
Melissa Emmons (10)

Electronic filter causes problems; must be changed

Technology funds should be used for fixing network, not installing filter

Sam Stahl
Writer

This high school is one of the few affluent ones in Allen County. We're fortunate to have the means to acquire technology to aid in our education.

The library is a fine example of that put to good use. Others, such as the art, technology, and publications departments, also do, in a less visible way. We have our network folders, which are of great use, freeing us from the now obsolete floppy disks. We have new Dells in most computer labs, laser printers, and powerful software at our fingertips. What we do not have, though, is reliable access to the Internet, upon which much of our work and the aforementioned uses of what we do have, rely on.

I was filling out the ICPAC (now known as the Learn More Resource Center) forms the other day, and noticed that more than a few questions were centered upon access to the Internet. A surprising number did, in fact. I hesitated for a moment before marking the oval next to "school," on the question that asked where I had access to the Internet.

A week or so before that, while I was at lunch, the school regained access to the Internet. During seventh period, one of our editors came into the small computer lab in the pub room, and in the first time in several days, was able to use the internet. What exactly he was searching for I do not remember precisely, but it was some detail needed to complete a story. He typed in the address to the site he needed to view. He hit "enter." Up popped the ever familiar page that notifies you that

> "We should be using the funds earmarked for technology to go into maintaining the network, not engaging in the petty censorship thereof.

some piece of software has decided the page is not appropriate for your eyes to read. It might as well have been down yet another day. And this isn't anything new.

True, the recent unreliability of the network is probably not related to the "filters," but both subjects need to be brought up. Actually, the filters are probably the most reliable aspect of the network; after all, they get in the way of scholarly research day in and day out.

I remember I had to deal with this sophomore year, when we did our reports on the censorship of books, of all things. My English teacher was very adamant in opposing the censorship of books, as is to be expected. But when it came time to do Internet research, as people (predictably) started having trouble researching the subject, the amount of apathy was surprising. These all-powerful 0s and 1s were treated as immovable, unchangeable, a given. Software, in an educational setting, should make as much knowledge as possible available to its audience, not restricting its free flow. And as sacred as books are to English teachers, electronic text is equally valuable to our generation. To restrict such a powerful format of communication just to keep a small population of deviants in line simply isn't the answer.

I am not taking issue with the people our school employs to make do with what they have, but the end result of a broken system: an important tool for students and teachers being woefully unreliable. We should be using the funds earmarked for technology to go into maintaining the network, not engaging in the petty censorship thereof.

Sam Stahl is a junior and works as a writer for the Spartana. *The views and opinions expressed in this column do not necessarily represent those of* the Spartana *or of its staff.*

Forbidden websites

www.hotmail.com

www.ebaumsworld.com

www.martinlutherking.org

www.bustedtees.com

State of union address by president Bush unimpressive, unoriginal

Jim Katz
Writer

"He shall from time to time give to the Congress Information of the State of the Union, and recommend to their Consideration such Measures as he shall judge necessary and expedient;" (Article II, Section 3, United States Constitution).

On February 2nd President George Walker Bush delivered his fourth annual mandatory address to Congress. Although it came only two weeks after his inaugural speech, it is the State of the Union which sets the priorities for the year, and in this case, for Bush's second term.

Leading up to the State of the Union, Bush's approval rating was startlingly low. He continues to have problems in both domestic and foreign policy. Iraq, despite recent elections, is still high on the list of national priorities. On the domestic front, the national debt, education, illegal immigrants, and other issues are persistent problems at home. Social security has also become a highly contested issue as of late. All of these issues, on top of the fact that Bush's approval rating is hardly above fifty percent, put a great deal of pressure on the goals he presented in his State of the Union.

After the standard drawn-out introduction, Bush began his speech with domestic issues. He spoke of job creation, cutting the deficit and unnecessary programs, the No Child Left Behind Act, healthcare, alternative energy, the environment, border security, same-sex marriage, and social security. The way in which Bush made these brief statements about a plethora of topics, although it ensured nothing was forgotten, left the feeling that he did not have firm plans for any one of these problems.

I was bothered by how he addressed several of the issues. He spoke of cutting the deficit in half by the year 2009; a deficit he failed to mention was created by his administration. He spoke of alternative energy and the environment as though his track record showed anything but carelessness for either one. He spoke of the No Child Left Behind Act as a flawless system that is raising standards across the country. In reality, many schools and states have been forced to lower standards in order to maintain a high enough pass-rate among students. The major issue of Bush's domestic policy is the privatization of social security. It was in this portion of the speech that he was most specific in his plans. Only time will tell if his plans are for the benefit of current and future retirees. He also spoke of same-sex marriage in a way that worried me.

"So many of my generation, after a long journey, have come home to family and faith and are determined to bring up responsible, moral children. Government is not the source of these values, but government should never undermine them. Because marriage is a sacred institution and the foundation of society, it should not be redefined by activist judges. For the good of families, children and society, I support a constitutional amendment to protect the institution of marriage."

Several parts of this statement cause concern. First of all, the concept that government has anything to do with "morals" is a problem. Ethics are something that the government follows and enforces. Moral values imply a religiosity that should not be part of government. Secondly, using the term "activist judges" is more than a little scary, as that was the term used by many opponents of the civil rights movement in the 1950s and 1960s. In recent years "activist judges" has been a term used by America's right wing to undermine the integrity of progressive judges. Finally, America faces far too many serious issues to worry about the "sacred institution" of marriage.

Bush then went on to discuss matters of foreign policy. He continued to tout the message of the constant fear of al Qaeda and again avoided the point that Osama bin Ladin is still at large. He spoke of Afghanistan, Saudi Arabia, Iran, and even North Korea. I am still in shock that President Bush said this next passage:

"The United States has no right, no desire and no intention to impose our form of government on anyone else."

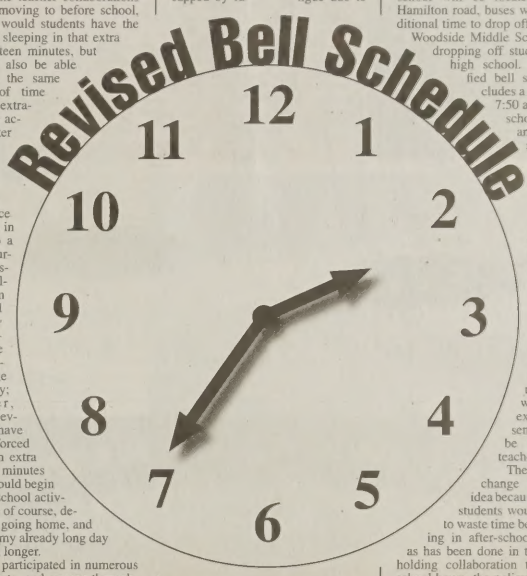
If invading a sovereign nation under false pretenses, then changing the motive for the invasion to creating a representative government, which happens to be "our form of government" doesn't utterly contradict this statement, I don't know what would.

Bush spoke of an Iraqi woman who voted in the Iraqi elections and whose father was killed under Sadam Hussein. He also spoke of a mother of a Marine who was killed in Fallujah. The two were seen later embracing. While this did represent the feelings of a few people, for the vast majority of Americans and Iraqis, it was a political symbol used for the sole purpose of manipulating public view in favor of the war in Iraq. Bush closed with a quote from Franklin Delano Roosevelt and the now obligatory "God Bless America."

I hate to be cynical, but when expectations are so high, and the country is truly divided down the middle, the last thing we needed was another regurgitated, no-solution, cursory speech. Perhaps the President will impress me more than his fourth State of the Union implies, but in Bush's own words "the road to Providence is uneven and unpredictable," and we have a long way to go.

Jim Katz is a junior and works as a writer for the Spartana. *The views and opinions expressed in this column do not necessarily represent those of* the Spartana *or of its staff.*

Revised bell schedule for '05 - '06 school year raises questions, controversy; members of editorial board discuss both benefits and flaws of new idea and current schedule



Dillon Kimmel
News Editor

It's a generally accepted statement that more sleep is a good thing. Students are more aware during classes and that in turn allows them to get better grades. So when I heard school would be starting at 7:50 next year to allow busses enough time to get middle schoolers to the new Woodside, I was pretty stoked. I'll welcome more sleep with open arms any day, even if it is just twenty minutes. But it goes beyond just that. On the positive side, sports practices can take place immediately after school, which is great because waiting around until 2:50 can get very old. The reason, however, is that collaboration time for teachers will take place in the morning. Teachers would be required to be in the building by 7:00 AM in order to have department meetings: ouch.

The idea sounds like a win-win situation for students, but if I were a teacher, I would not want to be here any earlier than I already have to. I don't see why we can't just keep collaboration time the same. Just push everything back twenty minutes. It doesn't make sense to shake up the teacher's schedule any more than it already is. I would love to have practices right after school, but I can find something to do for a half hour. It isn't that big of a deal. Plus, all tutoring must be done before school under the new plan. I would rather be able to go a teacher the day before a test, after school, and go immediately home to study the material. If we go through with the new plan, I would have to retain the information all day and then into the night. Personally, my memory is sub-par at best. It may sound picky, but the system works as it is.

Waking up twenty minutes later sounds great, and the new bell schedule should not disrupt the school day in any way. But I don't quite understand why the collaboration system must be altered. It seems to work just fine as it is. Teachers can come to school at the same time we do and have their meetings take place after school hours. I can't imagine teachers would rather come to school a half hour early and have meetings and tutor their kids when they are half-awake. It seems the school has it half right, but let's not upset a system that works as it is.

Matt Anderson
Sports Editor

Any schedule change that will allow students to sleep in longer and get out of school earlier is a great change in my opinion.

With the teacher collaborations possibly moving to before school, not only would students have the option of sleeping in that extra ten or fifteen minutes, but they will also be able to shave the same amount of time off their extra-curricular activities after school.

Rarely in my four years have I once had to go in to talk to a teacher during the assigned collaboration period directly proceeding the termination of the school day; however, almost everyday, I have been forced to wait an extra forty-five minutes before I could begin my after school activities. This of course, delayed my going home, and extended my already long day that much longer.

I have participated in numerous clubs, sports, and groups throughout this school, and have come to find the sooner one can go home the better. Barely ever getting anything productive done between the end of school and the beginning of practice, I would much rather sacrifice that time for the few extra minutes.

Mainly though, my strongest argument is the fact that with the switch instead of making students who do not need to attend the collaborations wait on those who do, just the students who want the help will need to spend the extra time at school. Gaining fifteen minutes before and after school may not seem like much, but thirty extra minutes everyday for an entire school year does seem like a lot.

With students trying to balance the hectic schedules of today's society, I feel that whenever a chance for more sleep and more free time is available, a community would be foolish not to jump at the opportunity.

Christy Landrigan
Surplus Editor

Inexperience and recklessness define the two most common detriments of teen drivers at this school. These drivers will be further handicapped by fa- tigue due to the pro- posed new bell schedule that pushes collaboration time to 7:00 a.m. instead of after school. While many students who drive to school awake long before their morning trek, a significant number simply roll out of bed groggily, brush their teeth, shuffle to the car, and sleep through first period. Observing a classroom full of sleeping teens every morning is fairly common; conversely, alertness during first period is rare. If students cannot stay alert in class at 7:30 a.m., they cannot be expected to be alert drivers a half hour earlier.

"The most troubling consequences of sleepiness are injuries and deaths related to lapses in attention and delayed response times at critical moments, such as while driving," says sleepfoundation.org. "Drowsiness or fatigue has been identified as a principle cause in at least 100,000 police-reported traffic crashes each year, killing more than 1,500 Americans and injuring another 71,000, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA, 1994)."

Allowing some students to sleep longer is a step in the right direction, but requiring them to come in before school for extra-curricular activity meetings or academic help is not a wise solution.

Suhasini Bhargava
Co-Editor-in-Chief

Proposed for the 2005-06 school year is a bell schedule that includes a postponed start time for the high school. Because the new middle school will be located on West Hamilton road, buses will need additional time to drop off students at Woodside Middle School before dropping off students at the high school. The modified bell schedule includes a start time of 7:50 a.m. for high school students and a dismissal time of 2:35 p.m. Additionally, the proposal maintains that collaboration time will be held before school rather than after school for students to make up missed work from excused absences and be tutored by teachers.

The suggested change is a better idea because otherwise students would continue to waste time before engaging in after-school activities, as has been done in the past. By holding collaboration time before school hours, the policy makers are allowing students to save time after school.

The current system is inconvenient because although some students take advantage of collaboration time, many are forced to waste 35 minutes between 2:15 p.m. and 2:50 p.m. as they wait for sports practices and club meetings to commence. The new policy will solve this dilemma and please athletes, club members, and musicians.

Although critics argue that the new system allows teachers to leave at 2:35 p.m. without staying after school to help students, those students will have the same opportunity the following morning to interact with their teachers and ask questions. Most teachers, however, are willing to wait for a few minutes to help students prepare for quizzes and tests.

If adopted, the new collaboration schedule will be a beneficial amendment to the school's rules and daily procedures.

Josh Zurawski
Co-Editor-in-Chief

School starting twenty minutes later seems like a bonus. What high school student wouldn't turn down twenty minutes of extra sleep. If passed by the faculty, teachers would be required to be in the building at 7:00 AM, which would mark the beginning of collaboration. Currently, collaboration occurs directly after school until 2:50, allowing students to ask their teachers questions.

Unfortunately, students who wanted to ask their teachers questions would have to come in before school starts. Collaboration before school means only one thing: less learning. Barely any students would go into collaboration if it meant getting up early than they had to, and any students who did go would be so groggy from their sleep that its doubtful the information would stick. Plus, it's more practical to allow students to ask questions on a topic a couple hours after it's discussed rather than waiting overnight.

Another glaring problem with the proposed problem is extra- and co-curricular activities could start at 2:35 (directly after school) instead of the current 2:50. Students need that time to relax a bit between the grueling school day and a grueling practice. Another plus of having collaboration after school is it allows students to run home before practice to get clothes or a quick snack. Some students are on the ball and bring everything they need to school so they don't have to make a run home. But honestly, kids aren't perfect, and they will forget their clothes once in a while.

The system works as it is. Collaboration after school works because kids aren't tired and don't have the option to skip out because they can sleep an extra twenty minutes. Students need time between school and activities so they can relax and/or run home for any reason. Move the whole school day back twenty minutes and get over it. Squeezing collaboration in before school will only add to the stress level of students.

District Bell Schedule for '05-'06 school year

Woodside: 7:30 a.m.- 2:15 p.m.

Summit: 7:35 a.m.- 2:20 p.m.

Elementary schools: 9:00 a.m.- 3:30 p.m.

High School Bell Schedule for '05 - '06

Current: 7:30 a.m. - 2:15 p.m.

Proposed: 7:50 a.m. - 2:35 p.m.

International Club deserves kudos for attempt to promote cultural diversity

In the past year, South Side High School in Fort Wayne received praise for its diversity. Our school, however, will not soon have the same accolades coming its way for either the students or the faculty. Summit Middle School's social studies teacher Shirley Phifer-Smith may be the lone minority teacher in the entire school district, except for a few substitute teachers of minority status. While Asian American minority groups are evident in this school system—look at the photos of former valedictorians and salutatorians—other minority groups have yet to be acknowledged. Four years ago, seeing an African American in the halls was a rarity, but times are changing now, with a marked increase in class representation. Minority students attend this school, but other than a few football or basketball players, they seem to be widely unknown. As time passes, racial and cultural diversity at our school increases; however seeing these students in active roles is more difficult. Is it possible that Southwest Allen in its overwhelming majority intimidates those of minority status from taking active participation?

Although a difficult question to answer, it is one to contemplate. Creating an environment open to differences is essential if students and faculty members are to welcome minority groups to become active in school activities. *The Spartana* would like to extend its gratitude for International Club (See page 1) for striving to create an organization that will embrace and celebrate diversity, a huge leap in bridging cultural and racial boundaries. Also, International Club will help minority students to develop a stronger sense of belonging and community at this high school and in Aboite, leading them to feel more comfortable when considering roles of leadership. Widening the gates of communication through common interaction is one of the strongest strides toward building an enlightened community sensitive to and understanding of cultural differences.

Editorial Board Vote: 5 for; 0 against.

The Spartana

Legislative branch debate concerning social security reaches school hallways

Current system guarantees protection of investments; opposition argues privatization gives freedom to taxpayers

Javed Sayed
Opinions Editor

As president George W. Bush begins his second term, one of his main goals is social security reform even though this objective has caused quite a large public outcry. President Bush along with others who are seeking to reform the current social security system claim that the social security system is in a crisis, and it will soon be running out of money to pay for the large number who will soon be retiring. The solution for this problem, set forth by President Bush's administration, is the privatization of social security. The plan for reform is based upon a preexisting system for some government employees, which allow them to invest some of their retirement funds however they choose. Though I agree there may be a problem with the current social security system, I do not believe that allowing citizens to invest their own social security money will solve the problem.

Since the Great Depression, social security has been around to help persons who have retired. The money that is used to support social security has always been taken from tax payers' dollars. Now, however, there seems to be imminent problems, as a large number of baby boomers are set to retire, and the funds for social security are dwindling. By allowing private citizens to invest the money how they see fit, advocates of the reform hope to solve the looming crisis. However, I feel that this plan may only lead to more serious problems. For example, if someone chooses to invest all their retirement money in the stock market, and the market goes down, that person will loose everything they had set aside for retirement. Then they would be unable to retire for who knows how long, or even worse the government would still be forced to pay to help sustain them after they retired. The turbulence of the stock market and other investments makes privatization an unwise idea.

> "The current plan for reforming Social Security makes it seem like the government is trying to take the easy way out. Rather than helping the problem, this may only serve to exacerbate it.

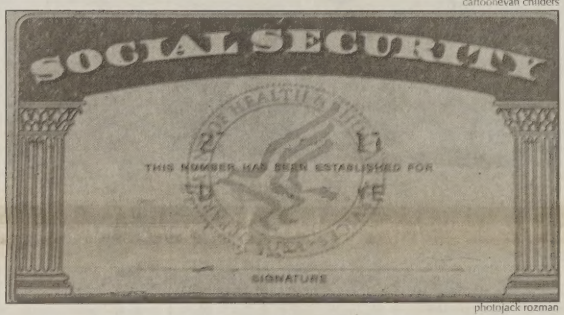
Furthermore, advocates for reforming the system claim that most people would end up making more from the privatized system. However, in truth the odds of doing better by investing one's own money are very slim. Many will more likely end up doing worse than better. Additionally, setting up a system to privatize social security accounts could have very high start up costs. The government would need to set up this system, and on top of that hire qualified individuals who would be able to help citizens conscientiously invest their money. Some estimate that as many as 10,000 individuals would be needed to hired, which would most likely cost much more than would be saved, causing an even bigger crisis with social security.

The current plan for reforming social security makes it seem like the government is trying to take the easy way out. Rather than helping the problem, this may only serve to exacerbate it. It would be in the better interest of the people if the government were to retain control of all aspects of the social security system, and invest the money responsibly by itself. Thus the government could ensure that the money would be invested and used with care.

Overall, the plan set forth by President Bush for social security reform simply is not a good idea. There is a very high chance that something will go wrong with the new plan, and the problem with social security will become even worse. Though I agree that the system needs to be changed sometime soon, I don't think privatization is a good idea. Instead, the government should take responsibility and find a safer way to solve the problem.

Javed Sayed is a junior and works as the Opinions Editor for the Spartana. *The views and opinions expressed in this column do not necessarily represent those of* the Spartana *or of its staff.*

cartoonevan childers



photojack rozman

Student Input

> "It is a difficult decision to make, but something has to be done. Privatization will give people more independence and choice as to how their money works for them.
>
> Tatienne Lipsey (11)

> "It's better to privatize social security because people should have their own choice. Governments should not be deciding what people do with their money.
>
> Stephen Mendenhall (11)

> "I think social security should not be privatized, because I would really not want to have my future entrusted in the stock market. Also, England has already tried privatization and it left many seniors without benefits.
>
> Rahul Gupta (9)

Lee Farnsworth
Business Manager

Social security is a program that taxes workers in order to set up a fund that provides retirement income and disability income, as well as other payments. The program takes 12% of a worker's payroll in order to make these payments. With any surplus money, the government currently invests in a trust fund of government bonds that return just barely above the rate of inflation.

The problem with the system is that the current surplus trust fund will soon disappear once baby boomers begin to retire. The government will have to start paying out money from the trust fund because the workers of America will not be enough to support this larger number of retirees. The money in the trust fund doesn't just stay there; it is invested in federal bonds by the government. The government simply takes out an IOU for the money and promises to pay it back as needed.

Privatization of social security, as proposed by President Bush, would allow workers to use a percentage of the money they would pay to social security and set up an investment account if they so choose. The workers would be able to pick from one of several broadly diversified accounts, similar to those offered to federal employees under the similar thrift savings plan. The average annual rate of return for stocks during any thirty year period in the last ninety years has been 8%. Clearly, if history is any indication, the money would generate higher returns if put into the stock market than if the government invested it in bonds. Critics of the program argue that those who invest unwisely would have nothing left for their retirement. Some also say that a major stock market collapse would ruin the retirement funds of American workers. First of all, the government has ready made funds with diversified stocks to guard against collapse. The government is not going to allow an individual to invest social security money in overly risky or unproven stocks. People also have to understand that as they near retirement, their investments should decrease gradually in level of risk to prevent a major loss of money in the years immediately preceding retirement. If a major stock market crash were to occur (similar to the 1929 crash) the majority of workers would have ample time to recoup all of their losses before retirement. Furthermore, it is next to impossible to insulate workers from a major market collapse. If such an event were to happen the federal government and workers both would be in trouble. The argument that a significant market crash would fiscally harm those looking to retire is obvious, regardless of the structure of social security. The basic question one must ask when evaluating the merit of privatization is whether you would rather have an IOU from the government as your retirement fund, or whether you would rather have control of your own fund which would be invested in a diverse fund of stocks. Isn't the choice pretty clear?

I think that some people are uneasy about the proposal simply because it is made by George W. Bush. But, whether you love him or hate him, Bush has to be given credit for bringing up an issue that has been called the "third rail of politics." He is trying to fix a system that is on a gradual decline so that, by the time we retire, we can have something waiting for us financially. Social security isn't a speed boat; it's more like the Titanic. The program is headed for an iceberg and we won't be able to cut sharply to avoid it. We have to start turning years in advance if the disaster is to be avoided.

Social security is a problem that needs to be addressed. Privatization would allow workers to have control of their own retirement funds rather than giving the government control. It would allow people to build a "nest egg" that would be waiting for them upon retirement. If social security is not changed, it will be our generation that ends up paying dearly for it. If social security is left as is, we will not have anything waiting to support us during retirement, something that our parents and grandparents enjoy. We have a right to enjoy that security too; privatization is a viable way to ensure that we do.

Lee Farnsworth is a freshmen and works as the Business Manager for the Spartana. *The views and opinions expressed in this column do not necessarily represent those of* the Spartana *or of its staff.*

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Profanity may appear in *the Spartana* with the approval of the advisor, but only in cases of direct quotations or if it is necessary for clarity. Material which is libelous or obscene and could cause substantial and material disruption, as defined by the Supreme Court, will not be printed.

Public input will be accepted in the form of letters to the editor. Letters must follow standards concerning liable or obscenity. Those which could cause substantial and material disruption, as defined by the Supreme Court will not be printed.

Staff members of *the Spartana* support the First Amendment rights and oppose censorship in any form. The content of the paper is determined by the student staff. In cases of potentially controversial material the editorial board will meet to decide the content of the newspaper. Students will be assisted by the advisor in areas of professional ethics and legalities.

Variety show. 2A • Snowcoming. 3A • Elections. 4A • Lilly scholarship. 7A • San Salvador. 8A

Cafeteria food analysis reveals healthy choices available in lunch room

Minimizing visits to 'grab and go' lunch lines; choosing 'sub' line imperative in eating healthier foods during lunch mods

Ashley Butler
Profiles Editor

An attempt to find healthy food in the cafeteria begins in the grab-and-go line, a popular choice among students in a hurry to get a quick fix.

This line prides itself on soft pretzels, nachos and cheese, and gigantic cinnamon rolls. Smaller items in the grab-and-go line include chips, yogurt, candy bars, and ice cream.

Many times, students will pair one of the larger items with a candy bar or cookies to complete their lunch.

Though the grab-and-go line is quick and easy, it is easy to fall into a trap of high caloric foods by consuming items from this line on a daily basis. For example, a cinnamon roll on Friday, paired with a candy bar and lemonade, is equivalent to over 1,000 calories, which is more than half of an average person's daily caloric intake.

A smarter way to get a healthy lunch in the quick line is to reach for items like yogurt, salad, or even cereal. Pair these choices with a piece of fruit or a bag of pretzels, and you will have one of the more healthy meals offered at school.

The pizza line, also a long line due to popularity, offers many different pizza varieties throughout the week. On Mondays, students are able to buy deep dish pizza, and on Tuesdays, a small round personal pizza is available.

"I think that the pizza line is really greasy," Jared Baker (12) said. "The triangle pizzas taste really good, but I know that they're really bad for me."

This line is never going to be the healthiest choice, but is suitable for occasional cravings.

The sub line, often slow moving, encompasses possibly the most healthy lunch choices in the cafeteria.

Submarine sandwiches include the blend of protein and carbohydrates necessary for a balanced meal. As long as someone doesn't pile on mayonnaise and oil, a sub will never be a bad choice. Make sure to stuff the sandwich with veggies for a filling, satisfying meal.

If someone chooses the Mexican line, they will most likely be faced with the temptations of French fries and taco salad.

When trying to make a healthy choice, skip the fries and extra salt. Too much salt can lead to high blood pressure and clogged arteries, along with dehydrating the body.

Also, eat any veggies that come with the meal first because the meat is extremely greasy.

> "Everyone thinks that the cafeteria lunch is really bad for you, but actually, it's pretty easy to find healthy food; just get some yogurt or milk from the grab-and-go line"
> Andrea O'Malley (12)

When visiting the Spartan line, the chicken sandwich is the best bet.

Though the fish sandwich seems healthy, deep frying will ruin a meal's nutritional value.

Burgers are of moderate nutritional value, but it is not advisable to eat these burgers on a daily basis.

One of the least healthy options in this line are the mozzarella sticks. Cheese, though high in protein, is also high in fat. In addition, cheese sticks are deep fried, which further reduces their health.

The most balanced meal found in the cafeteria is located in the regular lunch line. Here, students are able to take small portions of many different kinds of foods.

Different entrees are offered each day in the regular line, and unlike most of the other lines, the menu changes from week to week.

Frequently, in this line, a salad or other side item is offered along with vegetables and the main course.

Fruits and vegetables should be consumed frequently, especially by teenagers, as part of a balanced diet.

Though many people view school food as unhealthy and high in fat, it is possible to find healthy alternatives for a nutritional lunch.

"Everyone thinks that the cafeteria lunch is really bad for you," Andrea O'Malley (12) said. "But actually, it's pretty easy to find healthy food; just get some yogurt or milk from the grab-and-go line."

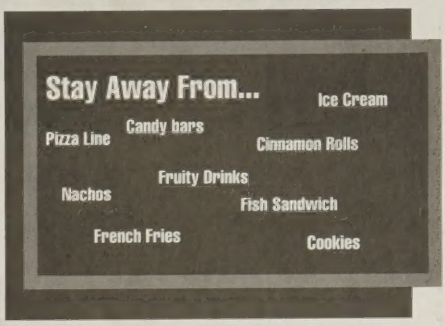
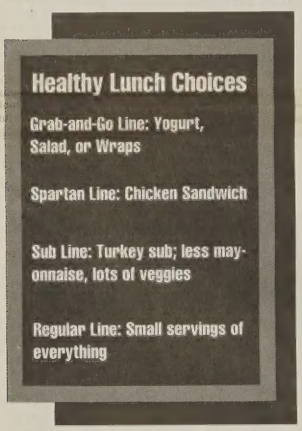


photo zach hetrick

» Fries, while popular, are extremely unhealthy for students due to their high salt and fat content.


Healthy Lunch Choices
Grab-and-Go Line: Yogurt, Salad, or Wraps
Spartan Line: Chicken Sandwich
Sub Line: Turkey sub; less mayonnaise, lots of veggies
Regular Line: Small servings of everything

phototyler churchward

« Ryan Gidley (10), Nate Hughes (10), Patrick Mullen (10), and Cory Elmer (10) all enjoy a sub at lunch. Unlike fries, onion rings, nachos, pizza, or other fatty foods served at lunch, subs allow a healthy, tasty alternative. However, loading a sub up with mayonnaise or oil can cancel out any nutritional value gained by a sub. Vegetables, such as olives, lettuce, and pickles, combined with the bread and cheese, provide a nutritional lunch.

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ADVERTISE

Call 431-2261 to talk to *the Spartana*'s business manager about rates.

MORP is approaching fast and the annual dance will be held at Hilger's again this year. The dance will be held on March 18, 2005 from 8 - 12 pm.

Pennies for Patients began last Friday. The students vs. teachers basketball game will also be held.

Contact Student Government at hhsstugov@sacs.k12.in.us, or 431-2942

Gambling. 1A • Variety Show. 2A • Healthy Eating . 7A • San Salvador. 8A
you are here ▲

Lending a helping hand across the border

Students travel to San Salvador, El Salvador to help build homes for charity; another missions trip sponsored by the Chapel scheduled to occur during Spring Break

A Typical Day in San Salvador

7:00 am - Wake Up
7:45 am - Eat Breakfast
9:00 am - Meet with SOL (Sharing Our Love-Missionary group) and told what to do for the day
10:30 am - Arrive at destination
11:00 am - Prepare church for afternoon bible teachings/lessons
12:30 pm - Go door to door and invite people to afternoon event
3:00 pm - Program begins (usually begins with Children's activities)
5:00 pm - Serve dinner
6:30 pm - One of the students speaks on a themed lesson
8:00 pm - Depart for hotel

Ashley Butler
Profiles Editor

Meredith Denney (12), a member of The Chapel, along with other teens, is making a difference in the lives of many people in San Salvador.

During the 2004 Spring Break, she took a trip with 33 other high school students to volunteer in this impoverished city.

Though a great deal of the city is poor, it is a relatively safe country for Americans to visit.

"San Salvador is a beautiful city with lots of mountains," Denney said. "There are many smaller towns that make up the city, and each town has farmlands."

Last year, the group worked on a few housing projects in the community.

"We built church roofs, helped paint, and built church benches," Denney said. "The people were so helpful."

On their trips, the group works very closely with a group of missionaries from San Salvador.

" [The missionaries] help with a lot of the details before we arrive," Denney said. "So it is very beneficial for all of us."

Denney has fond memories of her trip to San Salvador last year, and is excited to have the opportunity to go again.

"In one of the towns, I was playing with a group of kids," Denney said. "None of them spoke English, so I was forced to speak Spanish to them. When I couldn't think of a certain word, I grabbed a piece of paper and tried to draw a picture of the word. The kids loved it, and started crowding around, wanting me to write their names and trace their hands. I ended up using about 20 pieces of paper and gave them to the kids; they loved it and gave me a hug afterwards."

> "I enjoyed practicing my Spanish... the children of San Salvador were so friendly and I loved playing games and speaking Spanish..."
> -Meredith Denney (12)

This year, The Chapel plans to take another group of eager teens to volunteer their time and energy over their break from schoolwork.

Planning has already begun for this year's trip.

"I was asked to help lead the trip, and so we met as a team to plan it," Denney said. "We want to have building projects in different towns and work one-on-one with the local people."

Before setting out, the group must get together and organize their ideas.

"We are all required to attend weekly meetings prior to the trip," Denney said. "We also have to raise money to go."

While in San Salvador, Denney and the other students plan to set up games for children to play, donate food, and build more necessary items for churches.

"On this trip coming up, we are going to help build a retention wall for a church that we worked with last year," Denney said. "We are also going to be building tables for some children's classrooms."

Because San Salvador is a Spanish speaking area, students are able to brush up on their language skills while volunteering.

"I enjoyed practicing my Spanish with the people we met," Denney said. "The children of San Salvador were so friendly and I loved playing games and speaking Spanish with them.

After the trip last year, the group felt greatly welcomed by the people.

"Everyone is so appreciative of what we do while we're there," Denney said. "They constantly thank us and welcome us every time we meet with them."

photoscourtesymeredith denney

Top: Dillon Kimmel (10) and Andy Parker (12) pose with a group of children in Tepecoyo, El Salvador. Clockwise from far left: A map of San Salvador, El Salvador where the group of students went. Meredith Denney (12) paints the outside of a church at Tepecoyo. The group of students painted both the inside and the outside of the small church and built them pews and a pulpit. The group of students pose before departing from Chicago's O'Hare International Airport. They spent their spring break in the country of El Salvador last year. The landscape of Tepecoyo, El Salvador is pictured with a dwelling in the background.

Spartan Gambling. 1A • Revised Bell Schedule. 5A • Social Security. 6A • San Salvador Trip. 8A
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Making A Splash

Boys Swim and Dive team finish in eighth place at state competition.

p. 2

Sports

Double Trouble

Twins Vicki and Shelley Toth lead the gymnastics team

p. 4

issue 9 • the Spartana • March 4, 2005

Allen, Wight take top ten honors home from state competition

Bryan Wight (12) takes down an opponent. Wight finished eighth at state in the 112 pound weight class.

Tyler Keena
Writer

The wrestling team finally wrapped up its season advancing several wrestlers late into the postseason and even placing two among the top ten wrestlers in the state in their weight classes.

The team managed to advance five wrestlers past regional competition and on to the New Haven semi-state competition held at the Allen County War Memorial Coliseum on February 12. Bryan Wight (12) finished first in the 112 pound weight class at regional competition and advanced out of semi-state with a fourth place finish. Justin Allen (12) also placed first at regionals and followed his victory with a second place finish at semi-state, also advancing him to state competition. Other wrestlers who advanced to semi-state but failed to place fourth or higher and move on to state included Derek Hackl (11), Clinton Smith (12), and Matt Witham (12). Hackl finished second at regionals in the 130 pound weight class, Smith finished third at 152 pounds, and Witham finished first in the 160 pound division.

The state competition was held at the following weekend, February 18 and 19 at the Conseco Fieldhouse in Indianapolis. Wight got off to a good start at the meet with a victory in his first round match of the 112 pound division. However, he was unable to put together another win as he lost his following three matches. Wight's performance was still good enough for an eighth place finish in the state. Even with three losses in state competition, Wight's final record was still a very respectable 33-5.

"I was glad that I was able to place and get a medal at state, that was my goal all along," Wight said.

Despite being happy with placing, Wight still felt that there was room for improvement.

"I could have done better than I did and placed a little higher," Wight said. "A lot of my matches were really close that I ended up losing. One even went into double overtime. It would have been really nice if I could have stayed stronger and come out on top to place higher."

Allen had a little more luck in the 189 pound weight class. Allen won his first two matches, advancing him to the semifinal match. However, Allen fell just short of the championship in his semifinal loss. Allen also lost the third place match that followed, giving him a fourth place finish overall in the state and a final record of 35-4 after his two losses in state competition.

photos zach hetrick

Jessica Skiba (10) swims on in the 500 meter freestyle to place third. She also placed eighth in the 200 meter IM.

Moving FOUR-ward

Girls swim and dive team placed fourth at state, closer to topping perennial powerhouse Carmel

Sam Van Horn
Writer

Leaving school early is what most students at Homestead wouldn't mind doing, and the girls swimming team was able to be excused after second period to travel to Indianapolis for state.

Coach Chad Englehart prepares Sam Nolting (11), Jessica Skiba (10), and Kelly Johnson (10).

9:30 a.m. on Friday, February 11 was the time to depart on two mini buses traveling to the hotel in Indianapolis. They then swam warm-ups later in the day and prepared themselves for the biggest day all season.

At 10:00 a.m. on the next morning the girls ate a big breakfast and left for the pool to compete in their finals. They faced 49 other teams to compete for the state championship.

The Spartans did very well finishing in 4th place, beating everyone in the NHC. This was competition that the Spartans have not faced all season, and had to step up to the challenge.

Emily Ring (12) swam with Kristen Witham (9), Jessica Skiba (10), and Kelly Johnson (11) in the 400 freestyle relay. Ring is a senior and that was her last time she would ever be in the pool competing for Homestead.

> Compared to last year getting ninth, we did pretty well. And beating Snider was a big accomplishment
> Kelly Veenstra (10)

Also, finishing in the top 10 for the Spartans was Johnson who placed fifth in both the 50 and 100 freestyle races. Skiba placed well in both the 500 freestyle and the 200 individual medley. She finished in third for the 500 and eighth in the 200. Relays were also in the top 10, with the 200 medley relay placing fifth, and the 200 freestyle in sixth.

"Jessica (Skiba) did very well for the team," Kelly Veenstra (10) said. "She got third and that was the highest the team finished."

Macy Zander (10) finished eighth in the 100 backstroke. Ring was 16th in the 100 freestyle, while teammate Heather Moore (10) placed 14th in the 100 backstroke. Diver, Samantha Nolting (11), earned five points by placing 12th on the one meter board.

"Compared to last year getting ninth we did pretty well," Veenstra said. "And beating Snider was a big accomplishment."

Homestead's biggest rivals, the Snider Panthers, finished fifth behind Homestead. The Spartans received 151 and edged out the Panthers of 149.5. This was the second time this year the girls were able to pull out the victory over Snider.

This year at state, the girls dominated the Panthers; however, many of the races were close. Personal bests by the Spartans pushed them over the top. Also, Nolting gained five points on the one meter board sealing the win over their rival.

After the girls were finished with finals they met with parents and the boys swimming team to eat at their coach's favorite Mexican restaurant.

The girls' season is now over, however, the competition will continue for most swimmers on the team. SWAC is a club sport for Homestead and is year round. They are beginning to practice harder because the week before finals they only practiced 45 minutes a day.

"We're swimming harder and building back up our yardage," Veenstra said.

They're training for divisionals after the boys finish their finals. This is a chance for the girls to make state cuts if they have not already done so.

Other clubs from the area such as Snider also compete all year around. This allows the girls to keep in top shape during the summer in preparation for the next season.

So it is evident that the girls training year around makes a difference as they moved from ninth last season, to fourth this year at state. Maybe next season they'll be able to finish on top, and knock off Carmel who has won 19 consecutive times, which is the longest streak for any sport in the nation.

See 2B for boys swimming state results

Girls basketball finishes six games under .500

Erin Quinn
Writer

With only three minutes remaining in what could be considered their biggest game of the season, the Lady Spartans basketball team was tied 35-35 with state-ranked Huntington North.

Flashback almost three months ago, to the last week of November, when Huntington North rolled over these same girls by 53 points with an 89-36 victory in the Spartans' own gym. The difference between their third game and their last is unbelievable: one can hardly compare the jerky court movements, embarrassed coaches, solemn crowd, and disheartened players of the first Spartan/Viking match-up to the sectional game that took place at Northrop on Friday, February 11.

"They were pounding each other's backs, shaking hands and yelling enthusiastic praise the entire game," Stacey Roelke (9) said. "It was completely different than the quiet bench and crowd of a usual game. Today, everyone was amped."

The players not in the game were active and encouraging, sometimes joining the cheerleaders and freshman squad in chants of "Defense!" or "Let's go Homestead." The coaches were pacing the sidelines and jumping in response to good, or bad, plays. The crowd was loud and responsive as the players capitalized on crucial possessions- Stephanie Mitchell (10) sinking two free throws, Joy Nordin (11) hitting a long three, Jenna Pierce (12) feeding Kristin Bruce (12) for an easy basket.

> They were pounding each other's backs, shaking hands and yelling enthusiastic praise the entire game.
> Stacey Roelke (9)

The difference in atmosphere was due largely in part to the determination of the coaches and players to play a different game this time- this was their second chance, their last chance, to prove to everyone, especially themselves, that despite an 8-13 record, they were a solid basketball team worthy of contention in big games.

The players were clearly enjoying themselves as they came out strong and took the lead against the Lady Vikings in the first quarter. As the scoreboard read Spartans 13, Vikings 9, they looked as if they actually believed that they were winning- they believed that they really could beat the intimidating red and black team with a 19-2 record.

As they entered the locker room at halftime, Huntington North had only a slim seven point lead. The Lady Spartans were far from dejected about the gap; they hit lockers and someone yelled, "Seven points? That's nothing! We're IN this!"

At the beginning of the third quarter Huntington's lead was knocked in half when Nordin received a lucky bounce from the rim and got the three, and Mitchell knocked down a quick put-back off a jump shot. They pulled ahead when Pierce responded with a 3-point basket. For the rest of the quarter, the score fluctuated as the teams traded the lead, and at the beginning of the final quarter, Huntington North was down 31-29 in the game they were supposed to be dominating.

And now they are back with an even score at 35, and three minutes remaining: three tragic, beautiful, and heart-wrenching minutes away from a loser and a winner, a triumphant victor and a miserable last place finisher.

Unfortunately, only one Cinderella story took place that night, as South Side beat predicted winner Northrop, on Northrop's own court. The Spartans did indeed fall to the sectional favorite, the team ranked 8th in the state, and the final score of 38-50 hardly justified the tremendous fight put up by the unranked underdogs who, as assistant coach John Thompson said, "had the 8th best team in the state running scared."

Girls Swimming.1B • Boys Swimming.2B • JV Gymnastics.3B • Double Trouble.4B

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Boys basketball regular season comes to end

Evan Childers
Writer

The varsity basketball squad has been successful all season long, and recent successes have created a rhythm within the team that makes it a contender coming in to the post-season.

"The team has definitely come a long way since the beginning of the season, senior team captain Ben Haifley (12) said. "We're playing very well together and really starting to mesh."

Haifley is one of a trio of sharpshooters on the Spartans squad, with Jono Cobb (11) and Grant Leindecker (11). The three score the majority of the points for the team. Cobb and Leindecker are in close contention for most points per game, while Haifley leads the team in rebounds. Trevor Terrell (11) is also a big factor on the Spartan squad, leading the team in the all-important assists category.

The team has amassed a 13-7 record since the beginning of the season, and has gone 4-3 in conference play, leading the team to high hopes for the postseason. But the inconsistency that has plagued the team all year long could be a factor, despite the fact that the team is playing remarkably better since the beginning of the season. The team won its first sectional against Huntington North on Tuesday, March 1. The Spartans play round two of their sectional tonight at Huntington North against the Snider Panthers.

In a recent loss to Snider on senior night, that very same inconsistency appeared- the Spartans kept it close throughout most of the match but lost control in the fourth quarter in route to a ten point defeat.

"I think if we play our game and work together we can go very far in the tournament," Haifley said. "If not, we will struggle."

Of the team's twelve victories, arguably the biggest came against Bishop Dwenger, who was, at that time, ranked third in the local power poll. The victory was also significant because Spartan basketball Coach Chris Johnson was formerly coaching at Bishop Dwenger High School, and this is the first time he has played against his former team.

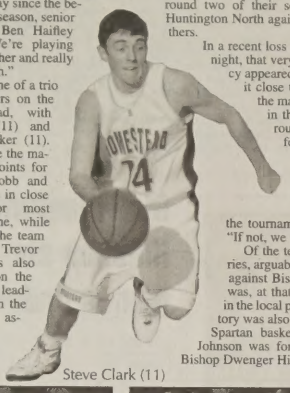
Of the team's losses, perhaps the most heartbreaking was a game against Bellmont High School, who is ranked seventh in the state. Bellmont managed to edge out the Spartans by five points, although the game was in contention nearly the entire match.

An added factor in the varsity squad's home games has been the enthusiastic fan support. The team welcomes all students to come out and view the exciting and intense games.

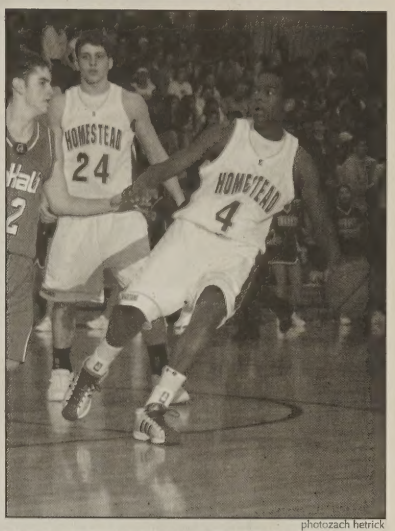
"Fan support has been pretty good," Haifley said. "A lot of students are coming in and supporting us. Keep it up, because we're going to need it come sectional time."

Over the past four games, the Spartans have gone 4t-1, accentuating their strengths and minimizing their weaknesses with more consistent play, and giving the team high hopes for the post-season.

"Our game is really starting to peak," Haifley said. "Everybody's starting to come together and our game is flowing mellifluously."


Steve Clark (11)

» Brandon Parker (11) backs off a DeKalb defender. The team looks to avenge a narrow defeat against the Snider Panthers tonight in round two of sectional play.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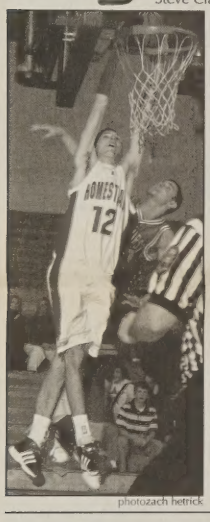
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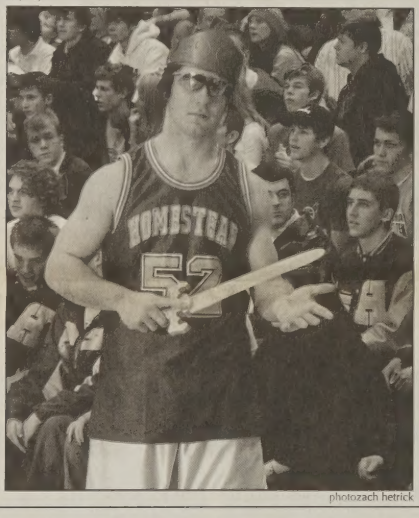
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photomichael cobb

» Grant Leindecker (11) stops abruptly while dribbling to get away from an opponent. Far Left: Jono Cobb (11) slam dunks at the game against Elmhurst. Leindecker and Cobb are the only two that can dunk on the team. Left: Taylor Kinzer (11) shows his school spirit at the basketball games by dressing up in his Homestead jersey and Spartan helmet and sword.

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Boys swim and dive finishes in eighth place at state

Caitlin Myers
Writer

The sectionals meet, which took place Saturday, February 19, at the Summit Middle School Natatorium, was another great win, contributing to the boys swim team's eleven years in a row of winning sectionals. Pat Laughlin (11) placed first in the medley relay along with Brendan O'Hara (11), Bob Dent (11), and Chris Jones (11). O'Hara also placed first in the 50 yd. free, first in the 100 yd. backstroke, and first in the 400 yd. free relay. Dent placed first in the 100 yd. breaststroke and third in the 200 yd. IM. Shawn Sullivan (11) placed second in the 100 yd. breaststroke and second in the 200 yd. IM. Andrew Hoffman (11) placed first in the 200 yd. free, first in the 500 yd. free, 200 yd. free relay, and 400 yd. free relay. Ryan Dafforn (10) placed first in the 100 yd. fly, Jones placed first in the 100 yd. free, and Brent Graham (12) placed first in the 200 yd. IM and second in the 500 yd. free. All events that won were new records.

For the boys diving sectionals, Dan Frebel (12) placed first, David Piercy (11) placed second, and Cameron Hansbarger (11) placed third.

For the state meet, the boys tied in 8th place, with Warsaw, achieving 116 points. The first place team was North Central, with 221 points. Hoffman placed seventh in the 200 yd. free and fourth in the 500 yd. free. Brent Graham placed tenth in the 500 yd. free and eighth in the 200m. Laughlin placed ninth in the 200 medley relay and nineteenth in the 100 yd. backstroke. Dafforn placed fourteenth in the 100 yd. fly, and Dent placed fifteenth in the 100 yd. breaststroke. O'Hara placed thirteenth in the 100 yd. backstroke, sixteenth in the 200 yd. free relay, and thirteenth in the 400 yd. free relay.

The boys dive team had three finishers that placed in the top 10 at the state meet. Frebel placed fifth, Piercy placed eighth, and Hansbarger placed ninth. This was the first ever that Indiana has ever had three divers from the same school finish in the top 9.

"The meet was kind of a learning experience for most of us," Laughlin said. "Our full potential wasn't met, because we were a little apprehensive and not able to relax enough to get focused."

Hockey team ranked second in high school league

Players pull together despite coaching staff quitting in mid-season

Joe Salisbury
Writer

While many of the school's athletic teams are given high praises for their play, one of the most successful teams for the school this winter has been overlooked. The boys hockey team is 13-4-1 in their league play, and one of the top teams in their league. Due to the fact that hockey is a club sport; many students around the school do not know how well the team is doing.

The team is currently in second place in the Fort Wayne Area High School Hockey League, only seven points behind the Carroll Chargers. However, on December 8 they had an important game against the Chargers. The guys could not pull out a victory, in a 10-4 loss. Fortunately, the team rebounded for their next game, shutting out Snider, 5-0. On their usual Wednesday night game, on December 22nd, the team continued their offensive surge and beat New Haven 7-1.

After enjoying a short break over winter vacation, the team was back in action on January 12th. The team was not rusty a bit from the break, and easily beat Northrop, 7-3.

Then on January 19th, the team had another extremely important match up with Carroll, which would be essential if the tem had any chance of moving into first. The team came out very strong, looking to avenge their prior loss. They did just that, and won 5-4 in a closely contested game. The team kept up their winning streak, as they beat Snider 7-3 on January 26th.

On February 2nd, the team once again won, beating North Side 4-2. Next, on February 5th, the team beat Northrop 5-0. However, they ended up having to forfeit due to player eligibility. The on the 9th, they hammered the New Haven Bulldogs, on their way to an easy 13-5 victory. Next, the team finally got their revenge over the Chargers and won, wrapping up their regular season.

The team had the City Tournament, before their season would be all over. They felt very confident that they could play well and win the championship. They won their first round game against Snider. Their next game was against Carroll, once again, and it would decide who would be city champs. The Spartans gave it their best effort, but fell 6-2.

"If we believe in ourselves and give it our all, we can definitely win," Mario Baldassari (10) said. The Spartans, along with Carroll, were the two favorites to win the championship.

One thing that makes how the team has performed even more impressive is that the entire coaching staff quit in the middle of the season. They were forced to group together an entirely new staff, and have been playing well since then.

No matter what happens in the tournament, the team has still had a very successful season and has a lot to be proud of. Court Bulloch (12) is second in the league in points, with 46 goals and 12 assists. Austin Hans (12), Phil Gibson (11), Joey Emmons (10), and Jordan Churchill (12) are all among the top 14 in points in the league. Mike Donnell (9) and Tim Clark (11) have been consistent goalies that have helped the team throughout the season.

"The season has gone really well, I think we've proven a lot especially in the second half after our entire coaching staff quit," Baldassari said. "Our captains have done a really good job leading us."

photojack rozman

» Cort Bulloch (12) skates across the ice in attempt to pass the puck.

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JV gymnasts conclude season with final meet against Elmhurst Trojans

Jessica Bird
Writer

As Winter sports come to a close, teams try to finish on a strong note. The girl's JV Gymnastic team has accomplished just that. They have worked together all season long in order to achieve a level of success that they and their coaches can be satisfied with. The team finished the season in a strong way.

Team members, however, would agree that there were meets that they could have competed better at. Kristin Chenoweth (9), a gymnast who competes on both the JV and Varsity team said that the toughest meet was against Northrop. This was a particularly hard meet for a variety of reasons.

"The Northrop meet was the toughest because the JV gymnasts from Northrop are really good," Chenoweth said. "[Also] the scoring [that our team received] was really low."

The JV Spartan gymnasts lost that meet, which was held on January 24. at Northrop. The defeat from Northrop did not let the Spartans lose hope for the rest of the season. They continued to work hard, and perfect and finish their own individual routines.

"The JV team has done nothing but improve throughout the entire season," coach, Erika McEvoy said. "The girl's scores have really improved as they finished up their routines at the end of the season."

In this and other sports that demand a lot of physical activity, injuries are something that a team hopes to avoid. Luckily, the JV Gymnastics team did not, other than a slight broken finger, have any injuries that hindered the outcome of any meet.

"We only had one minor injury this season on the JV team so it did not really effect how the team performed at competitions throughout the entire season," McEvoy said.

Some members on JV also compete for the Varsity team. Some gymnasts, however, make the transformation from JV to Varsity on a yearly basis.

The experience learned on JV will help the girls make the transition to Varsity easier.

"There will be many returning gymnasts next year including gymnasts that are moving up from JV to Varsity," McEvoy said. "Theses gymnasts will help the varsity team a lot. After this season is completed, however, we will be losing four very talented seniors on varsity."

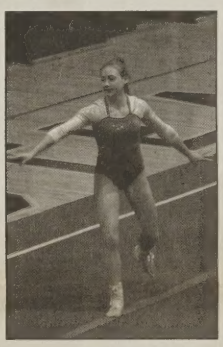
With losing those four seniors, and adding new gymnasts to the varsity team, the 2005-2006 JV team will have the advantage of knowing what to work on for a successful season next year. As the team looks back on their season , however, there are few things that they would have changed.

"Consistent scoring would be changed, and I would also change how well I preformed," Chenoweth said.

The JV team completed their season with a competition at Elmhurst. This meet was a make up meet that was supposed to be held on January 6. As the JV season comes the a close, The varsity team will continue into post-season competitions. The varsity team, will advance to sectionals on March 5. If the team advances, they will go to Huntington North on March 11 for regionals. If the team advances further, they will go to the state competition, which will be held at Perry Meridian on March 19.

photozach hetrick

» Grace Lundergan (10) performs on the bars against the Northrop Bruins. In the background, a judge scores her.



Kristin Chenoweth (9) » performs a floor routine. Chenoweth competes on both the JV and the varsity squads.

photozach hetrick

« Alicia Carter (11) performs her floor routine against Northrop High School. The JV gymnastics team concluded its 2004-05 season with a meet against Elmhurst High School. Although the JV squad has finished all competition, the varsity team is scheduled for sectionals on March 5. For more details about the varsity gymnastics team and twin gymnasts Shelley Toth (12) and Vicki Toth (12) , see page 4B.

JV dancers anticipate state tournament in Indy

Matt Anderson
Sports Editor

As the JV dance team's season quickly reaches its conclusion, the seventeen dancers look to the state competition as a chance to cap their season with one last victory.

On March 4th, the dance team will travel to compete in the state competition, and hopefully avenge the two previous losses at state to the defending champions, Lake Central. Two years ago the team would lose by a margin of only thirteen points, which was cut down to one and a half points last year. The team of freshmen through juniors is hoping to finally get over the hump and bring home a state title.

"We really want to beat Lake Central in jazz this year," Taylor Underwood (10) said. "We've faced them a couple times already this year, and lost each time, but there have been multiple judges that have placed us ahead of them. So, we are really excited to see how we match up with them."

The state tournament is divided into two days, March 4th and 5th. The first day is when the junior and varsity solos compete, and when the ensembles perform. The varsity and JV teams have a group competing in basically all available categories. Natalie Wray (9) and Kelly Strothman (9) both advanced in the junior solo competition from the JV team. Wray was named regional champion earlier in the season. The junior category is where all sixth through ninth grade students compete, so even if a dancer is on varsity, she will compete under the junior category if still a freshman. Varsity member Jenna Wise (9) will be competing in the junior division as well.

The second day is team competitions. This is when the team will compete in both jazz and pom. Jazz, however, is usually considered their stronger category.

"We always place well in both jazz and pom, but we place better in jazz," Underwood said. "Still, I think we place extremely well in both areas considering the competition we face."

The team still feels it can win state in both categories after working hard to improve in their pom routine.

"We have spent a lot more time on pom this year and have a chance of winning state if we perform to our best ability," Nishi Patel (11) said. "We have to beat Lake Central and Floyd Central, so our competition is really tough."

The state competition is being held at Lawrence North in the Indianapolis area. It is the last competition for both the varsity and JV team, and both are looking to add to their already impressive accolades from this season.

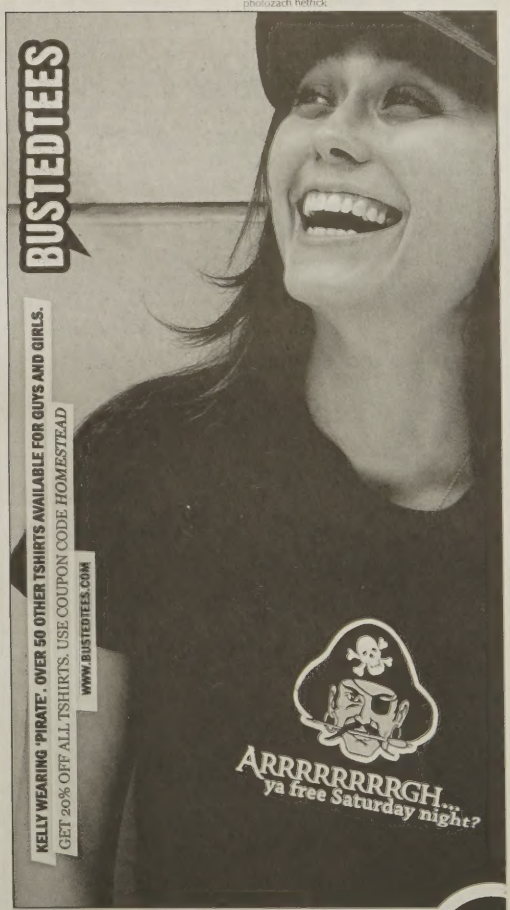
In preparation for the state tournament, the JV team not only practiced during and after school every week, but also attended numerous competitions across the area. Munster, Northrop, Lake Central, and Greenfield are only some of the sites the team has traveled to compete. The majority of these sites sent the team home with either a win, or a top placing in pom and jazz.

"Our biggest accomplishment this year has been going from a mediocre JV team to becoming one of the top placing teams in the state," Patel said.

The team is entered under the division IV title, and usually competes with eight or nine different teams. They are critiqued by a panel of judges at each of the competitions they attend, and only face the other dance teams that are entered into the division IV category. They are coached by second year coach Lisa Root.

photozach hetrick

» Kelly Strothman (9) performs at a boys basketball game against Columbia City.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Double TROUBLE

photo:zach hetrick

Twin gymnasts Shelley Toth (12), Vicki Toth (12) dominate sport

Lee Farnsworth
Business Manager

This year's girls gymnastics team benefits from senior leadership and experience. Two of the team's senior components are Vicki Toth (12) and Shelley Toth (12). These twin sisters provide encouragement and motivation not just for the team, but for each other as well.

The girls started gymnastics when they were four years old. They had always been very flexible and used to do cartwheels and other gymnastics moves around the house. After a friend had a birthday party at a gym in which the girls were first introduced to the competitive side of gymnastics, the pastime of cartwheels became a way of life.

"After our friend had that birthday party," S. Toth said, "we joined the gym where she had it. We started doing competitive gymnastics then, and we've been involved with the sport ever since."

The girls said that they enjoyed gymnastics because it incorporates mental strength, physical strength, and flexibility. In addition, gymnastics on the individual level appeals to the twins because they are the only ones responsible for their successes or failures. This sense of self achievement makes victory that much more special during individual competitions. The girls have also developed friendships through the sport and have grown closer as sisters as well. The lifelong friendships that the sisters have made thanks to their involvement in the sport are among the twins' favorite things about gymnastics. When they compete, the girls say that they push each other to do well. They enjoy comparing routines and training together. By working together on routines both in and outside of practice, the girls are able to perfect their own moves while helping each other at the same time. The girls have been able to motivate each other during competitions, but they admitted that there is a friendly rivalry between the two.

"We do have a little bit of a sibling rivalry," S. Toth said, "but we still always want each other to do well. We would never root against one another."

The twins say that it is hard when one of them does well but the other does not perform at her best. The girls have been on the team for all four years of high school. During their sophomore year, S. Toth made it to state competition individually, but V. Toth did not advance. V. Toth admits that she was disappointed at first, but eventually she turned all of her attentions toward supporting her sister at state. It is this kind of supportive and motivational relationship that causes the twins to be so effective.

As a part of the team this year, the girls have really shined. They have individually done well, despite a start to the team season which was not quite as good as they hoped for. The team is steadily improving, however, and the girls say that they are able to see their own individual improvement as well. The twins compete in all of the events offered to gymnasts in a single meet: floor, beam, vault, and bars. The girls are strong in all of these categories, and this multifaceted talent is a real asset to the Homestead team. They each believe that they can make it to the state finals as individuals, and their performances back up these lofty aspirations. The girls have high hopes for the team as well. According to the twins, the team is good enough to get to regional competition.

"I feel like we're both good enough to get to state," V. Toth said, "and we both want to try and get the team to regionals."

Although some may consider these goals rather aggressive, the Toths believe that they are attainable. Thanks to the hard work and training put in by the girls however, they are certainly within reach. The twins do their part to support the team's aspirations by providing senior leadership, motivation, encouragement, and advice to the team, not to mention high scores.

The girls of the gymnastics team all are working hard to ensure that this year ends on a positive note and that they reach all of their goals; and the Toths are no exception. The Toths are able to support one another in gymnastics. Because they are not only sisters, but also friends, the girls make each other better gymnasts. They become a team in the individual aspect of the sport.

The girls will compete at sectionals on Saturday.

Shelley Toth

Best Event:
Uneven Bars
College Plans:
Purdue; Cheerleading; Gymnastics

"We do have a little bit of a sibling rivalry, but we still always want each other to do well. We would never root against one another."

"I feel like we're both good enough to get to state.

Best Event:
The Floor
College Plans:
Purdue; Cheerleading; Gymnastics

Vicki Toth

photo:zach hetrick

Top: Shelley Toth (12) poses while doing a routine on the balance beam. Bottom: Vicki Toth (12) practices her floor routine.

photo:zach hetrick

Above: Kristin Chenoweth (9) begins her floor routine against Huntington North.

Gymnastics team heads into sectionals on Saturday

Caitlin Myers
Writer

With numerous meets compacted within a short period of time, the girls gymnastics team members have faced tremendous competition within the last few weeks. The girls have prepared hard to achieve their goals, and received additional help from the many freshmen. The girls have come a long way in a short amount of time and are ready to roll over their upcoming competitors.

With a record of 7-3 for the regular season, the girls keep each meet in mind and what they need to do in order to do well at sectionals and beat their team goals. They have had 10 regular season meets, and 3 invitationals. The first invitational they had was the Marion Invitational, where they finished fourth. The next meet was the Homestead Invitational where they placed second, and the last one was the Chesterton Invitational, where they placed fourth. The team conquered a major hurdle at the Homestead Invitational. They were successful in meeting a team goal, and that was to score over 100 points. At this meet, the winner was Northrop with 106.4, Homestead with 101.6, and DeKalb with 98.2. The girls struggled against Northrop at multiple invitationals, including the one at Homestead.

"Northrop is a state ranked team and they have a good chance to win state," Shelley Toth (12) said.

"I think we have a good chance of making it to regionals because many of the good teams like Snider, Carroll, and Concordia have lost good gymnasts."
Vicki Toth (12)

Unfortunately, the girls were not able to compete in an NHC meet because there was not enough schools for it this year. However, the team have had enough regular season meets and weekend invitationals to compete in and this is what has kept the team on their toes, in preparation for sectionals.

"I think we have a good chance of making it to regionals because many of the good teams like Snider, Carroll, and Concordia have lost good gymnasts," Vicki Toth (12) said.

With about 14 girls on the team, every meet the coach rotates in four varsity girls and four junior varsity girls to compete in each event. The coach does this so that every girl has the opportunity to compete at the varsity level. Sadly, the girls have had obstacles in the path of their way to sectionals, and one of the major problems have been injuries. Luckily, the girls have been able to overcome these issues, and practice even harder to bring the team back up.

"Our team has done amazingly well," Courtney Garton (12) said. "Our freshmen have been working hard and every team member has added something special to the team. Even when one of the gymnasts is not competing, they have been there to support the girls that are competing. I believe that this team will advance on to regionals and have a great meet."

The girls will compete next this Saturday, March 5th, at Concordia at 12:00 p.m. for their sectionals meet. Sectionals will determine whether the girls will advance to regionals, semi-state, and eventually state.

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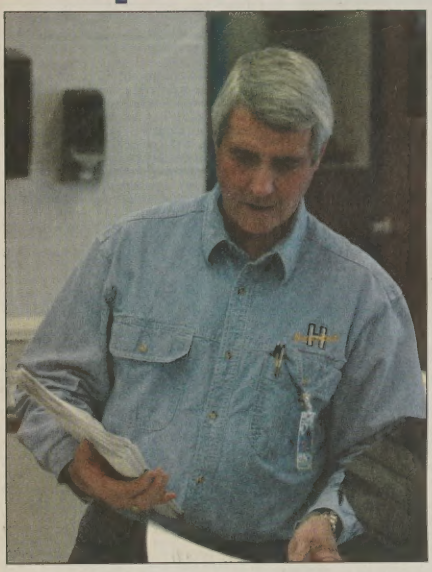
Dance state finals. 1B • Cabaret Night. 3A • School dances. 5A • Visit to Greece. 8A

the Spartana

March Madness
Intramural basketball provides local tourney
p.4B

Volume 35 • Issue 10 • Homestead High School • 4310 Homestead Road, Fort Wayne, IN 46814 • March 23, 2005



photos/zach hetrick

Doug Waldman (left) and Stanley Crum (right) will study a scientific topic outside of the school.

Science buddies receive Lilly grants

Crum and Waldman worked together to get money to study science outside the classroom

Kelly Childs
Writer

Since the turn of the century, Homestead has produced a winner every year for the Eli Lilly endowment grant. Four of these years had double winners, two winners in one year. The grant allows teachers in Indiana to pursue a dream they have and assists them financially. In 2000, Steve Lake and Tom Baker were awarded the prestigious grant, in 2002, Susie Johnson and Gayle Bloom won, in 2003, Angela Wood and Steve Clough were given the grant, and this year, Stan Crum and Doug Waldman were honored with the award.

The two worked side-by-side, helping each other along the way in the application process. Waldman said this grant was something he always wanted to try for. Years ago he considered applying, but things got in the way and he never got around to it. This year, when the information came out, Crum and Waldman teased each other saying "Are we gonna do it this year?"

"It eventually became a 'you push me and I'll push you' situation," Waldman said.

They chose to do it with the support of each other. In fact, they originally tried to carry out their travels and studies together, but it did not work out.

Regardless, they both got the grant and now have the opportunity to use $8,000 toward their project. Crum will travel north to study the aurora borealis, that's the northern lights for the non-astronomical people, and Waldman will also travel north to study polar bears and their migration.

Crum has decided to split his trip into two parts. During the summer, he will travel to Edmonton, Alberta and then on north to Yellowknife, Northwest Territories, both in Canada, to get to know the area and make expedition plans for his winter trip. His studies of the northern lights will take place in the winter, when the nights are longer. When Crum explained why he wanted to travel 5600 miles just to see "high speed particles create lights in the sky" he said he wants to experience the real thing.

"Pictures ultimately fail because they don't have the motion, the changing colors, the crisp snow sounds underfoot, the cold of the north, and the high breathtaking sheets of changing wavering light that I want to study for myself," excerpt from his application.

When he returns from his trip, he hopes to utilize his experience to enhance his classroom.

"Physics is about the real world. This will be an experience of seeing something that I have only so far been able to talk about," Crum said.

Waldman also feels this trip will give him more first hand knowledge about a particular subject that he could not have without this experience.

"I will be able to give the kids an inside look at a particular species and its habitat," Waldman said.

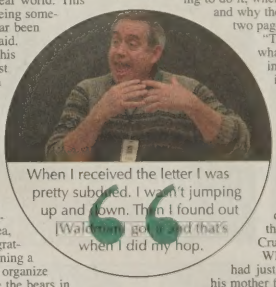
This October, he plans to travel to Churchill Manitoba, the Hudson Bay area, to observe polar bears migrating. Like Crum, he is planning a preliminary summer trip to organize his fall trip and to observe the bears in their natural habitat.

"I have always had an interest in bears, and polar bears are the only bears I do not know much about. I would like to observe them in their natural habitat instead of seeing them in a zoo," Waldman said.

He plans to study the bears and see if problems like global warming and tourism affect the animals.

He is hoping to work out details which will allow him to travel with the bears twenty-four hours and be with them constantly. He also thinks there is a possibility that he could use a satellite feed to send footage back to the classroom for his students to view while he is gone. Since there are no roads into the town, he thinks it might be expensive, but he is still optimistic.

According to Waldman, the hardest part about getting the grant was writing the application. He admits to not being an English expert and says he wrote and rewrote multiple times. Crum spent much time working on drafts as well. He says he went through eight or nine drafts before he was satisfied. The two teachers estimate they spent one-hundred combined hours working on the application process. They had to condense what they wanted to do, where they wanted to do it, how they were going to do it, when they were going to do it, and why they wanted to do it, all into two pages.



When I received the letter I was pretty subdued. I wasn't jumping up and down. Then I found out [Waldman] got it and that's when I did my hop.

"The hardest part was getting what I needed to get across into two pages and still having the paper say something," Waldman said.

The work was worth it, because now they both get the opportunity to pursue their dreams.

"When I received the letter I was pretty subdued. I wasn't jumping up and down. Then I found out he [Waldman] got it and that's when I did my hop," Crum said.

When Waldman found out, he had just returned from picking up his mother from Ohio. He came home and there was an envelope on the table.

"Clough always said 'If it's a big envelope it's good, if it's a small envelope it's bad'. I had a big envelope on the table," said Waldman.

It is a big deal that these two men were awarded the grant because only 120 people in Indiana were awarded them. It is unusual for a school system to produce more than one ever, let alone more than one in the same year and ten in six years.

"I think it says something about this school corporation and its staff. Most school's only get one ever. It says something for the people who work here. Homestead must be doing something right," Waldman said.

Crum agreed with him and also feels the staff here is exceptional.

"We have a rather remarkable crop of them, and it says something about our faculty," Crum said.

The Eli Lilly grant has been able to help the aspirations of Homestead teachers come true and to further their knowledge on a subject they love.

JCL travels to Indy for convention

Lee Farnsworth
Business Manager

The Junior Classical League of Homestead High School traveled to Indiana University to enjoy the 52nd annual Indiana Junior Classical League (IJCL) State Convention.

Students participated in events which included academic tests, creative arts, graphic arts, and Certamen, a Latin version of quiz bowl. Homestead sent 39 delegates to the convention, six parent chaperones and the club's sponsor, Homestead Latin teacher Kathy. Adair.

The convention was held from Friday, March 11 to Saturday, March 12. Students left school early Friday in order to reach the convention for registration by 2:30 pm.

The first day of the convention included a general assembly, and the first of two academic testing sessions during which students had their brains picked about Latin vocabulary, grammar, mottoes, Roman history, Roman life, and a pentathlon test which synthesizes five different tests into one examination. The night also included the creative arts contests Latin oratory, English oratory, and the costume contest. The contests involve a student performing a memorized speech for a group of judges or dressing up like a character from mythology and answering questions. The first round of Certamen, a buzzer game which incorporates questions about any aspect of Ancient Rome was also held. The night also included candidate speeches given by those running for a position on the IJCL state board.

Early the next morning, sight Latin reading was held. In this competition, students are given a fairly short passage in Latin and are allowed to work with it for ten minutes before having to read the passage for a group of judges. There were then two back-to-back rounds of Certamen before academic testing session two began. Students called upon their knowledge of Latin reading comprehension, geography, derivatives, and mythology for this session of testing. The students then hurried off to the next general assembly (where students wore togas), which was preceded by spirit competition during which delegates scream and, inevitably, lose their voices in the name of promoting their school's chapter. Next, A speech entitled "Caesar in your Pocket" examining Roman coinage given by retired professor Kenneth E. Cutler.

After lunch, the delegates headed to more spirit and another general assembly. This assembly included a talent show organized by . Adair. From Homestead, Nick Myers (10) played piano, Ben Silver (8) sang, Caitlin Ryan (10) did Taekwondo, and Chris Gerber (9) jumped rope. All three of the Certamen teams advanced to the finals. The novice or first year team of Silver, David Ramsey (8), Nick Arnold (9), and Myers finished in third place. The lower or second year team captained by Lee Farnsworth (9) and including Brandon Chaffee (9), Christina Peters (9), and Brad Starks (9) won their competition. The upper or third, fourth, and fifth year team captained by Hari Vasu (10) and including Emma Farnsworth (10), Abhi Vemula (11), Andrew Schroeder (10), Michael Dorko (11), and Brennen Callaghan (10) finished second.

At the final general assembly, Homestead delegates Vasu and Shelley Gupta (12) received awards for their outstanding achievement in academic testing during the convention. Homestead had four officers elected to the state board as well. Vemula was elected President, Vasu First Vice President, E. Farnsworth Recording Secretary, and L. Farnsworth Corresponding Secretary. Homestead also finished second in sweepstakes, determined by performance in all areas of competition during the convention.

Students who attended this year's IJCL state convention certainly put in a great deal of work; and saw the results of that work. They continued the tradition of excellence with which Homestead is associated in the Junior Classical League.

see page 2A for latin photos →

The spring musical Bat Boy has been canceled due to "offensive" content. The censorship has claimed headlines across the nation, as far as San Jose, CA, including a brief in the *USA Today*. The full story will be covered in the next issue of *the Spartana*.

BATBOY

The much delayed 2003-2004
YEARBOOKS
are available in room 620.

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SADD hosts date rape seminar

Austin Hetrick
Writer

Homestead's chapter of SADD, the national organization of Students Against Destructive Decisions, has been quite active in the past months hosting and appearing at nearly ten activities. Their activities continue with the regular meetings in late-March and April, and the State SADD convention held in Bloomington April 29.

Activities for SADD truly began February 23, where Leslie Cook and Officer Kevin Neher held a conference in the Fort Wayne Sexual Assault and Treatment Center. The meeting kicked off the "Dating Violence Awareness Month."

On February 15, the SADD chapter also held an eighth-grade "Open House" presentation, in order to acquaint upcoming freshmen with the procedures and opportunities of becoming a member.

The NAND Art Night also featured SADD involvement as well as the Dance Marathon held February 25 and 26. That evening included prize give-aways and SADD members were also on hand to answer any questions from students.

March was kicked off for SADD with a meeting for members regarding a field trip, held by Mr. Harkness. Several weeks later at the NAND Fundraiser, SADD members and officials were also on hand to answer questions and help support the evening of arts. The evening featured almost all of the arts, including Class Royale and Elite (the show choirs), the Jazz Band, and a contingent of the Orchestra.

SADD has plans to hold their regular meetings on April 12, and 26 in the community room and cafeteria. On April 29 the State SADD Convention will be held in Bloomington where thirteen student-members, including most of the SADD student leadership will attend meetings regarding the condition and organization of the state and national SADD organizations.

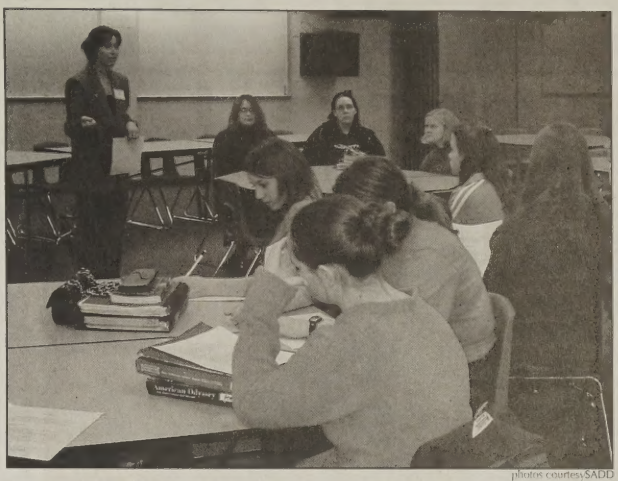
Following the convention, on May the Drunk Under Influence organization will be kicked off followed by meetings on May 10 and 24. SADD's year will conclude with the National SADD Convention in Washington DC on June 26-29.

Other programs that SADD will sponsor include the annual Homestead "Prom Promise," which will, according to the SADD website, "be a nationwide program designed to keep students safe during the Prom and Graduation Months." This year's theme is "Keep Your Memories Alive."

"As a visual reminder a vehicle that has been involved in an alcohol-related accident [will be] displayed on the lawn in front of the school the month of May until graduation. Also a large banner, bouquets of flowers for main offices and display case in front of the school will reflect the theme."

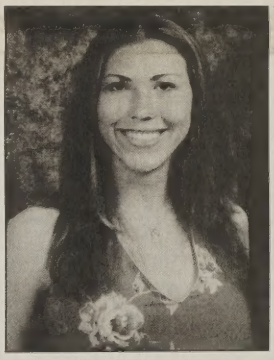
SADD will also encourage students to remain drug and alcohol free during the Prom and Graduation season. Members will also promote the campaign during the lunch periods. "Students who agree with the pledge will have their names displayed [in a Glenbrook Mall chain of names] to encourage other students to accept the challenge to be drug and alcohol free.

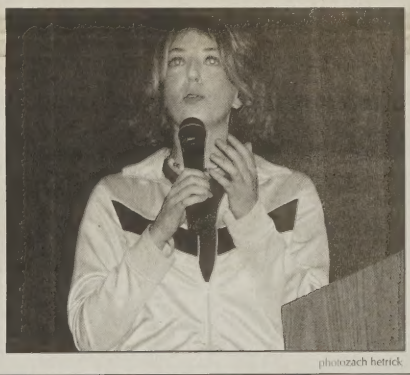
With SADD's busy spring schedule, the organization hopes to promote its mottos of "providing students with the best prevention and intervention tools possible to deal with the issue of underage drinking, drunk driving, drug abuse, and other destructive decisions." The members hope to continue to provide a meaningful and safe organization to alert the lives and decisions of their classmates.



photos courtesy SADD

» Students listened to a date rape prevention speaker at a SADD meeting.





photos zach hetrick

» Left: SADD member Whitney Johnson (11) applied and received a spot on the Indiana Student Leadership Council. Right: The sister of Rachel Scott, who died in the Columbine shooting, speaks to the school in an effort to spread her fallen sister's ideologies. This speaker's presentation correlated with one of SADD's purposes which is to minimize violence.

Students pursue academics during after-school hours

Academic superbowl teams compete at first competition on March 10

Jim Katz
Writer

When the standard academic pursuits of high school are not enough to satisfy a student's thirst for knowledge, the academic superbowl competitions provides the opportunity for that student to do so. These superbowl competitions have been successful in quenching the thirst for knowledge several high school students have.

Academic superbowl is a competition that many area schools compete in. There are six categories which students compete: English, fine arts, math, science, social studies, and interdisciplinary. Each of these teams has a small, highly selective group of participants, many of whom had to go through testing and teacher approval to be able to compete. Both the science and math teams had an overload of students wishing to join.

There are many ways in which students first became interested in academic superbowl; several students first become involved by taking a course taught by a teacher who is the adviser for one of the teams. Some students were members of multiple academic teams.

Luke Walker (11), who is captain of the social studies team, said of how he became involved.

"I took Mr. Baker's World War Two class, and I'm always looking for an opportunity to study history, and I jumped at the chance to join the team," Walker said.

> "They gave us practice tests and outlines on what to study but it is very heavily student-involved."
> Danny Panyard

Once meetings began, over the last few weeks, the teachers who advise each team tried as much as possible to let the students take the lead.

Danny Panyard (11), a member of the math and interdisciplinary teams, as well as the captain of the science team, commented on the teacher involvement.

"They gave us practice tests and outlines of what to study but it is very heavily student-involved," Panyard said. "There is a lot of reading on your own."

The teams had their first competition on March 10th, when they attended an invitational at New Haven High School. Homestead placed first in both science and math, with all other teams placing well. They will compete at regionals on April 19th, which is the beginning of the real season for academic superbowl.

The social studies team received fourth place at New Haven. The team, however, has goals for improvement between now and the regional competition.

"We are going to overload on history to try and improve for the next competition," Walker said.

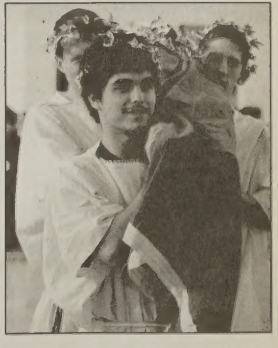
When asked what it is that they enjoy most about academic superbowl, their are varied answered. The two most common reasons are friends and pure academic interest.

"I have a lot of friends involved in academic superbowl," Panyard said. "Plus I just enjoy competing."

Walker has a more academic reason for his participation.

"I am obsessed with history, and I just cannot get enough of it in school," Walker said.

JCL members entertain lunch mods in honor of the 'Ides of March'



"Beware the Ides of March! Beware the Ides of March!" cried Katie Bessette (10) as she ran down the center aisle of the cafeteria. On the anniversary of Julius Caesar's assassination in 44 B.C., members of (JCL) created a stir in the lunchroom to commemorate the event. Clad in togas, a small group of members paraded around the cafeteria carrying Emma Farnsworth (10), covered in a sheet to represent the slain leader. Hari Vasu (10) gave a rendition of Marc Antony's funeral oration.

SADD, 2A • Improving school dances, 5A • Annexation, 6A • Grecian Glory, 8A

Global Briefs

— Oil Drilling in Alaska —

Amid the backdrop of soaring oil and gasoline prices, a sharply divided Senate on Wednesday voted to open the ecologically rich Alaska wildlife refuge to oil drilling, delivering a major energy policy win for President Bush.

— Scott Peterson —

A California judge today followed a jury recommendation and sentenced Scott Peterson to die by lethal injection for killing his pregnant wife, Laci Peterson, and her fetus. He called the deaths "cruel, uncaring, heartless and callous." Laci's stepfather Ron Grantski stated, "Scott got what he deserved."

— Iraq & Afghanistan —

The House of Representatives on Wednesday approved an $81.4 billion emergency spending package for combat and reconstruction in Iraq and Afghanistan, which would push the total cost of the wars beyond $300 billion. House votes 388- 43

— Oil Prices —

The president, saying he is worried about oil prices, told reporters at the White House that Congress has yet to come up with a comprehensive energy plan.

His comments came as oil prices hit a record high after a report showed sharper-than-expected declines in petroleum-based product inventories.

"I'm concerned about what it means to the average American family when they see the price of gasoline going up," he said. "I'm concerned what it means to small businesses."

— Michael Jackson —

Michael Jackson's trial began on Monday, February 28. Jackson is being tried for child molestation. Allegedly, Jackson molested a 13-year old boy at his Neverland Ranch after showing him adult books and providing him with alcohol. Opening statements began after Superior Court Judge Rodney S. Melville read the indictment to the jury.

—Medicine & Technology—

British scientists are developing a tiny robot to fit inside MRI machines, which will improve the accuracy of biopsies taken to screen for prostate cancer. Needle biopsies are currently taken from the prostate using ultrasound technology to detect where the prostate gland is.

—Bill Clinton's Surgery—

Former President Clinton left the hospital Monday, (March 15), four days after undergoing surgery to remove scar tissue and fluid around his left lung. Clinton's problem developed after his heart bypass surgery six months ago. Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton accompanied her husband from the hospital to their home, where the 42nd president completes his recovery.

—Michael Jackson's Trial—

Michael Jackson's, was indicted last April by a state grand jury on 10 felony counts for incidents that allegedly occurred in February and March 2003. Jackson has pleaded not guilty to these charges, of which include child molestation. Jackson's team of experienced lawyers grilled the teenage boy who has accused Jackson on Monday (March 15).

— Corporate Scandal —

Bernard Ebbers, the former CEO of WorldCom, was found guilty for his role in the accounting scandal that resulted in the largest bankruptcy in U.S. history. A federal jury in New York convicted Ebbers on all nine counts that he helped mastermind a $11 billion accounting fraud at WorldCom, now known as MCI.

— Tennis —

Quarterfinal matches are taking place at the Pacific Life Open, a Tennis Masters Event. Defending champion Roger Federer (SUI-1), Australian Open runner-up Lleyton Hewitt (Aus-2), American top gun Andy Roddick (USA-3), and Australian Open champion Marat Safin (RUS-4) have advanced. On the women's side, Lindsey Davenport (USA-1), Maria Sharapova (RUS), and Serena Williams (USA), remain in the draw. The next ATP tournament will be the Nasdaq-100.

briefspuja parikh

Annual Cabaret Night raises funds for showchoirs

Proceeds from silent auction, ticket prices go to Elite, Class Royale, backup band

Austin Hetrick
Writer

The show choirs held their annual fundraiser, Cabaret Night, on Friday the 4th of March, on the Homestead stage. Parents and relatives of show choir members were invited, and the 80-odd members of the choirs acted as hosts for the evening. Hosts were dressed up, and the parents were able to be thanked for their participation and support of the choirs.

The event began at six, and parents were invited to view auction items and sample desserts. A live auction was held during the event, and a silent auction was also open to the public. Donated items included packages of movies and nights out, and nearly a hundred other items.

> "I really thought that the performance was pretty good, the whole night was a lot of fun."
>
> Andrew Slayton (10)

The event was capped by performances by both Elite, and Class Royale. Each of the choirs was forced to use less than their full assortment of special effects and so forth (including extra riser moves and a background which would not fit on the stage.)

The show choirs usually depend on extra risers which allow the dancers to be more visible. This addition is somewhat new to Homestead, but most dancers think the effect adds to the image of the show. Other choirs have done similar things lately in competition, and the choirs hope that it will make them more up to date with the trends in the activity.

"I really thought that the performance was pretty good; the whole night was a lot of fun," Andrew Slayton (10), member of Class Royale said. "We had a good time, although it wasn't our best effort technically."

Other acts included the Ball State Swing Choir, who performed several routines. The Choir was composed of eight college students who performed several classic 50's songs with conventional swing dancing. Several were from Homestead and drew large applause from the crowd.

Cabaret Night has taken place for the past two decades, and it has become a staple of Homestead's show choir performances each year.

Elite placed eighth in their last competition in the all-women's division, and Class Royale took fourth at Centergrove high school. The choirs competed in their final competition at Huntington North on Saturday, March 12, and they did very well.

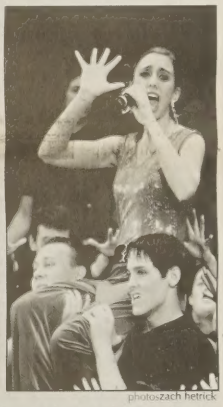
Following Huntington North, Class Royale and Elite spent a week preparing for the Homestead Show Choir Invitational, a competition which will raise money for the choirs. On Saturday, March 19, the competition will be held, and Elite and Class Royale will perform last that night.

The choirs will have to spend hours setting up rooms to host other groups and many may have to miss MORP. However, Classic Showcase (the formal name of the competition) is a tradition, and will no doubt be held without conflicts.

As the show choir season comes to an end, Elite and Class Royale look forward to their own chance to host a showcase at the high school. The choirs would welcome support at their final competition, and hope to see a large audience there on Saturday.

photoszach hetrick

Four members of the Class Royale perform at the Centergrove High School competition. Class Royale took fourth at that competition.



photoszach hetrick

Top Left, Class Royale used foam balls as props during their performance at Centergrove. Top Right, members of Class Royale give a rousing routine at Centergrove high School. Cabaret Night was held on March 4 in the auditorium.

DECA advances record number of participants to nationals

Jessica Bird
Writer

When one thinks of the concept of competition, one would most likely think of an event that would require physical activity. The idea that business could be part or a competition is probably something one would never consider. DECA, however, combines a business-like atmosphere with brain-puzzling situations to create a state wide competition. For those of you that are cave dwellers, or were asleep during classes on Monday and Tuesday, and did not notice that many students were missing from school, DECA students competed at state.

DECA is an association of marketing students that compete at district, state, and international levels against other business students.

In the beginning of each school year, students, pick an event that they would like to compete in," DECA adviser Brian McNeal said.

The purpose of DECA's competitive events are to contribute to the development of skills necessary for careers in marketing, merchandising, management and entrepreneurship. DECA also grants scholarships to some participants.

"Participants who do well at nationals can qualify for different types or scholarships," DECA member Sally Shinabarger (12) said.

The scholarships depend on the type of event that the participant is involved with. Some of the scholarships range from $1,000-$2,000 annually. Some colleges, such as Northwood University, grant full ride scholarships to talented DECA students. DECA also assists students in acquiring a realistic self-concept through individual or team activities.

Individual events include Apparel and Accessories Marketing, Food Marketing Series, Retail Merchandising Series, Vehicles and Petroleum Marketing Series, and many more. Team events include Hospitality Services Management, Travel and Tourism Marketing Management, Financial Analysis Management, and many other events.

Shinabarger and Jacqueline Jones (12) compete in the E-commerce management team event.

"JJ and I chose E-commerce because we have been doing that event since we joined DECA and are just familiar with the topic," Shinabarger said.

The two qualified for nationals this year after placing in the top three at the state competition in March.

The competition of DECA takes place in front of a panel of judges, mostly business owners or people involved in a business of some kind. The judges create a real-life scenario that challenges the individual or group's ability to act as a manager and figure out the problem. Students are given a situation and the student then types out how they would solve the situation. Judges then evaluate the performance.

The organization competed in the state portion of DECA on February 27 through March 1 in Indianapolis. This year was McNeal's tenth as DECA adviser. This year, the group had about 110 students. Approximately 80 students competed at the district level. The top 7 in each event went to the state competition. At state, the top 3 in each even go to the national round held this year in California.

This year Homestead finished in 4th place overall at state and had the following 20 students qualify for nationals: Rishi Ardeshna (12), Sanjeev Balamohan (12), David Childers (12), Paul Gauger (12), Justin Humphries (12), Jacqueline Jones (12), Krista Karidas (11), Jon Kopecky (11), Andy Krafcheck (12), Jason Leung (12), Ann McCullough (12), Andy Parker (12), Neel Patel (12), Nishi Patel (11), Sarah Schepper (12), Sally Shinabarger (12), Kelley Spillson (11), David Stehlik (12), Rachel Trevino (12), and David Windmiller (12).

Nationals for DECA will be held April 26th-April 31st in Anaheim, California.

"I'm really excited and nervous," Nishi Patel (11) said. "I hope we do well, but I know that we're also going to have a lot of fun. I know it will be a great experience, and I'll get a lot out of it."

National Qualifiers

Rishi Ardeshna (12)
Sanjeev Balamohan (12)
David Childers (12)
Paul Gauger (12)
Justin Humphries (12)
Jacqueline Jones (12)
Krista Karidas (11)
Jon Kopecky (11)
Andy Krafcheck (12)
Jason Leung (12)
Ann McCullough (12)
Andy Parker (12)
Neel Patel (12)
Nishi Patel (11)
Sarah Schepper (12)
Sally Shinabarger (12)
Kelley Spillson (11)
David Stehlik (12)
Rachel Trevino (12)
David Windmiller (12)

Pennies for Patients. 2A • Cabaret Night. 3A • Improving School Dances. 5A • Annexation. 6A

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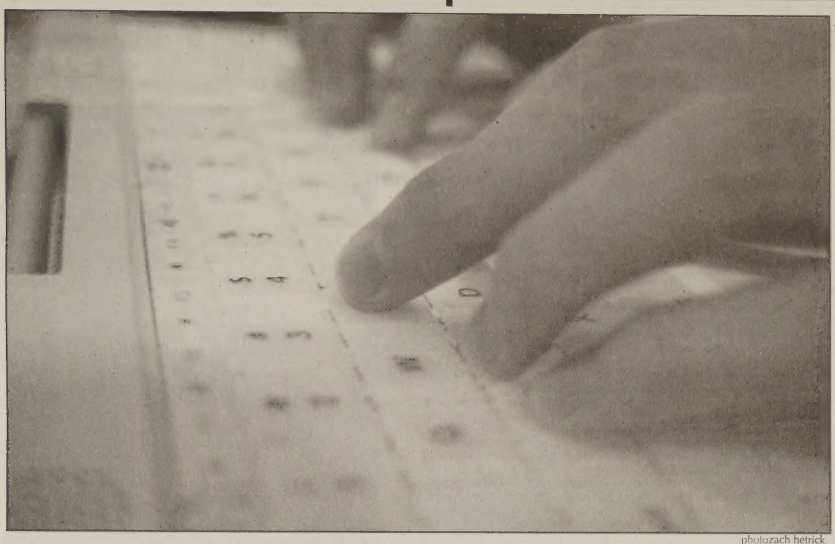


photo:zach hetrick

AIM a distraction for students attempting to finish homework

Instant messenger programs ruin students' grammar, spelling; have little redeeming value

Javed Sayed
Opinions Editor

When many teenagers come home from school, their practices change from working on worksheets about staunch grammar rules and spelling to writing in a manner unfamiliar to most adults. The greeting 'hello' changes to 'hey whatz ^' and the answering with 'n2m' or 'lol' is considered the norm. This world that has captivated the interests of most high school students is the world of the World Wide Web or, more specifically, AOL Instant Messenger (AIM). Although many students claim that the Internet is a tool that the use to help them with schoolwork, features such as AIM, Yahoo! Messenger, and e-mail act as distractions and prevent students from fulfilling the goals and intentions they had when the first decided to 'log on' to the internet.

I know from experience that whenever I try and get online for homework help, I inadvertently end up spending much longer than I had originally wanted to. Most of this time goes to senseless chatting, while only a small fraction of it is actually used on school work. While the Internet can certainly be quite entertaining, it often distracts me from completing what I intended to do. After asking a friend for help on some homework, I end up surfing the internet for hours that could be used for homework. At the end of the day, this just means that I have to stay up longer to do the same work that should have been done hours ago. Not only is this detrimental to school work, but it also causes many students to get much less sleep. And I am not alone; many other students find themselves in the same situation.

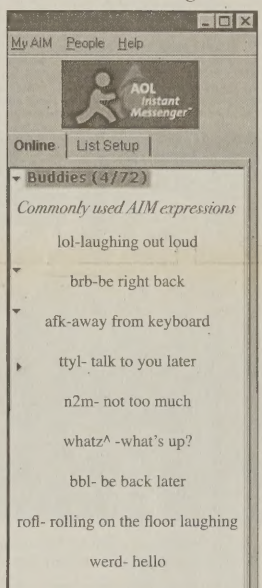
One of the biggest distractions that students face when on the Internet is AIM. Many times, students spend hours on the net simply talking to their friends. While some try to multi-task by doing homework at the same time, in the end it simply is not as efficient. Students spend a longer amount of time getting less work done. Though chatting on line with friends can serve as a means of diversion, it can also senselessly waste students' time. This time can be especially important if students have to study for exams or do homework that is due on the following day.

Another problem with instant messengers is that they oftentimes cause students to ruin their grammar and spelling. Many teenagers abbreviate words and phrases while chatting on the Internet, and unfortunately this can sometimes spillover into their schoolwork. This often times leads to students doing not as well on grammar and English tests.

I can't imagine how high standardize testing scores would be if students spent a little less time on AIM and more time studying. Not only would this benefit students in the short run, but it could potentially mean less money for college if the student attained scholarships.

Admittedly, students do derive some benefit from using the Internet to help with homework. If it is truly their agenda to get help for schoolwork, the Internet can provide a plethora of high quality resources that help students with their classes. Many web pages even answers students' questions, and help them with homework. Even instant messenger programs can be a valuable tool for students if used properly. Students are able to find about assignments and gain help from fellow classmates by using programs such as AOL Instant Messenger. Most of the time, however, students do not get on with the sole agenda of doing homework. Instead, they are looking for a means of entertainment, and the so-called "homework" excuse is just that: an excuse that is used as a pretext to get online.

All in all, the Internet has the capacity to help. Unfortunately, more often the Internet distracts students from the tasks they have at hand. While many claim that the Internet helps them, this seems to be an excuse to get online even more.



Javed Sayed is a junior and works as the Opinions editor for the Spartana. *The views and opinions expressed in this column do not necessarily represent those of* the Spartana *or of its staff.*

Democrats' petty politics prevent Indiana state legislature's progress

Jim Katz
Writer

On Tuesday, March 1st, the Democrats of the Indiana House of Representatives made one of the worst legislative choices I have seen in a long time. They walked out of the House chambers to avoid a vote on several issues that will significantly impact the entire state of Indiana.

During the reasonably short period of time that the state legislature is in session, (from January through April) there is a lot of ground to cover. There are many issues brought to the floor that are integral to Indiana's future. This pressure is only intensified by the recent change in the gubernatorial position. Mitch Daniels has been, up to this point, a very aggressive and determined leader, who has proposed a myriad of bills.

The deadline for that legislation was Tuesday at midnight. The house members were expected to attend the proceedings in order to vote on the bills.

Initially the Democrats did show up, but by mid-morning the house minority leader, Pat Bauer, called all the Democrats away to caucus. He claimed that there were simply too many bills (well over one hundred), and that the Democrats needed time to consider their position on several key issues. This was a reasonable request, as it is comforting to see congressmen stepping back and actually thinking about their votes. There was only one problem: the Democrats never came back.

The Democrats justified their absence by claiming that one bill would give the governor the power to prosecute. They claimed that this was giving far too much power to governor Daniels. While they may have had reasonable requests, leaving the house floor is not a valid option.

The job of a member of Congress is to best represent their constituents. It is not adequate representation not to vote. Voting on bills is the reason for a session of Congress. That is how the legislative process works. It is not designed to be ignored simply because of partisan politics.

There were many important bills up for consideration; bills that democrats arrogantly ignored in their walkout protest. There was a proposal to make ISTEP+ testing in the spring, rather than the fall. This would allow students to learn material over the course of the school year, and not force students to take this important standardized test just after summer vacation. Also, there was a bill to require voters to carry photo identification with them in order to vote.

> "I wish that Republicans and Democrats in Indiana could just put aside their differences for once and see that there are some issues where we can all can agree.

The most important bill on the agenda was the daylight-savings time bill. Indiana appears to be state of ignorant, arrogant fools to the rest of the country because we insist on having our own time. People argue that farmers need the light in the morning. Aren't there farmers in plenty of other states dealing with this problem? What makes Indiana farmers less capable to deal with day-savings time? These bills were too important to be shoved aside by pointless demonstrations of partisanship.

This is not to say I am becoming a Republican any time soon. While I strongly disapprove of the behavior of the Democrats in the Indiana House of Representatives, this is not the first time something like this has happened. The Republicans did something very similar last year. The Democrats were in the majority, and refused to have Indiana ban same-sex marriages. The Republicans, in response to this outrage, left the statehouse.

No matter who is at fault, leaving, rather than voting should not be an option. It is simply pathetic that our officials act in a such a hopelessly immature manner. We do not elect people to throw fits and run away when things are not going their way.

I wish that Republicans and Democrats in Indiana could just put aside their differences for once and see that there are some issues where we can all can agree.

Perhaps there are some ideas that are not controversial, where people can actually compromise. I am sure this is a hard concept for some politicians to grasp, but sometimes they should pull down the party lines and actually worry about their constituents before their party leaders. They should fulfill their roles as elected officials representing people with many partisan concerns.

While I do not agree with all of governor Daniels's agenda of reform, overall he has and will continue to work diligently to improve life in Indiana, and the least our state representatives can do is fulfill their role as state representatives and actually vote.

Jim Katz is a junior and works as a writer for the Spartana. *The views and opinions expressed in this column do not necessarily represent those of* the Spartana *or of its staff.*

Geography to blame for Indiana's 'brain drain'

Location of Ivy League schools, job market drive intelligence to coasts

Neil Shah
Writer

A plague has struck our nation's rural states.

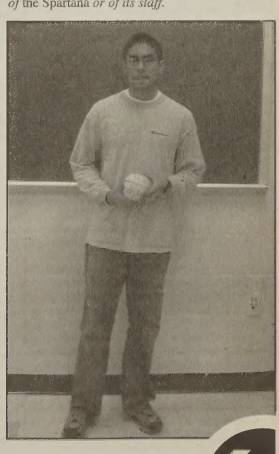
Recently, the best and brightest of these states' students have been fleeing them in order to find more attractive employment or, sometimes, even more attractive education. Brain drain becomes apparent to me after I talk to high school students. I have heard many students talk about how they just want to leave Indiana, regardless of how impractical the decision may be. Although brain drain is a problem for those who live in the region from which these people are leaving, it can be understood through economics. Basic economic laws, those governing supply and demand, can explain this behavior of high school students. When we look for places where jobs are continuously evolving and on the cutting edge of their fields, rarely do our eyes focus on the small towns and cities of the Midwest. Since the geography of our country makes the situation ideal for the Midwest to primarily have an agricultural economy, we do not see the same types of jobs grow in this region as we do on the coasts. The coasts are home to many more demanding and high-level executive jobs (with the exception of Chicago), and therefore attract the smartest students from all around the country. These people naturally move to the coasts, where the demand for them is highest.

Another reason we see brain drain is because of the location of our country's best universities. The Ivy League schools, often regarded as the best universities in the country, are all on the East coast. In addition, an additional three of the nation's elite universities (Stanford University, the University of California at Berkeley, and the California Institute of Technology) are on the West coast. The graduates of these schools often stay in the general area of their college to find work since it is typically available. A common misconception, however, is that it is absolutely necessary to go to one of those elite colleges for the first four years in order to get a job on the cutting edge. To even dream about working in one of these jobs, one must have a graduate degree.

One way students can stay competitive by going to a state school is by enrolling in an Honors college or honors classes that the vast majority of state schools offer. With these classes on a student's transcript, places searching to hire interns or four-year college graduates are much more likely to hire these students with knowledge that their workload was considerably harder through college. The catch, however, is that even with these honors courses the student must maintain a relatively high grade-point average to remain competitive in the job market. Another way students can take advantage of a state school education is by having two majors. With two majors, a student obviously has had considerable instruction in more than one discipline, making him much more desirable for hire than someone with only one major. Graduate school is yet another aspect of getting a job in today's competitive job market that, unlike undergraduate education which can counter brain drain, contributes to it.

Graduate school is the key to getting this type of job, and it is not difficult to get into an elite graduate school with a solid grade-point-average, major(s), and activities from a respectable state school. This fact is why I feel the get-out-of-Indiana method of thinking is not necessarily justified for high school students considering an undergraduate education. Going to a state school is also justified by the substantially higher cost of attending college out-of-state. Overall, the geography of our country can be blamed for our state's brain drain. Understandably, students are not as excited by the dominant industries in Indiana compared to those in New York or California. Undergraduate education, however, does not need to be attained from an expensive school on one of the coasts. As long as the job situation remains the same, so will the phenomenon of brain drain remain a problem for rural states.

Neil Shah is a senior and works as a writer for the Spartana. *The views and opinions expressed in this column do not necessarily represent those of* the Spartana *or of its staff.*



AIM's flaws. 4A • Improving school dances. 5A • Lilly Scholarship. 7A • Varsity dance team. 1B
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Low turnout at dances emphasizes need for improvement

Suhasini Bhargava
Co-editor in chief

The low attendance at the recently held Snowcoming dance confirmed what students have known about school dances for ages: they are not popular among a majority of students. The purpose of this editorial, however, is not to criticize student government or its organization of dances but rather to examine possible ideas for bettering student dances and encouraging more people to attend.

By publicizing the dances by having morning announcements, attractive posters, and word-of-mouth advertisement, student government can keep students more aware of dance themes, ticket prices, and dates of dances. Few students were aware of the Snowcoming dance, partially because the dance is relatively new and partially because of minimal publicity.

At the beginning of each school year, student government members can provide ballots with various music types listed. During homeroom, students can vote on which types of music they would prefer to dance to at student dances. The percentage of students preferring a certain type of music could reflect the percentage of time that is spent playing that particular type of music.

The dates of the dances should also be revised to ensure that extra-curricular activities do not conflict with dances. This year, for example, members of Elite show choir, Class Royale show choir, and the backup band Anonymous Blue are scheduled to set-up for their invitational on the day of Morp. Similarly, members of speech team are scheduled for a state meet on the Saturday after Friday of Morp. In the past, speech team members have left for Indianapolis on Friday and have been unable to attend Morp. If the date for Morp were changed, attendance at Morp could increase because more students would have the opportunity to attend the dance.

Because Snowcoming has been a poorly attended dance in the past, student government might benefit from not holding the Snowcoming dance in the future. Instead, a dance based on Valentine's Day could be held.

The changes that student government needs to implement in order to better improve dances include improving publicity, encouraging student input about music, and revising schedules to accommodate those who participate in extra-curricular activities.

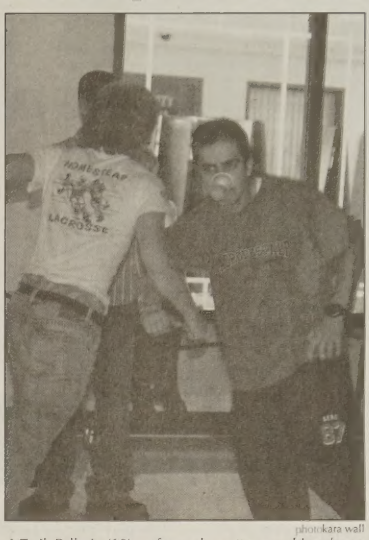

photo:kara wall

⁂ Tarik Pellerin (10) performs the cotton-eyed-Joe dance in the cafeteria during the Snowcoming dance.

Matt Anderson
Sports Editor

When brainstorming ideas for how to improve the student government dances I decided upon three areas that were in need of serious renovation: music variety, activity options, and advertisement.

At every dance, the same rap 'shake it like a saltshaker' songs are played. Although they never once repeat a song, the songs they do play are so closely related, I could have sworn they were. Maybe, the DJs could slip in a few indie or rock groups, or even fall back to older still popular acts like Queen.

Also, the rap music being played most likely results in inappropriate "grinding" than some of the other genres available. I'm not saying you have to cut the rap completely, but at least mix things up.

My second point is for those students that want to attend the dances, but don't feel there will be anything there for them to do. Unfortunately, not everyone is born with the best dance moves, and dances can seem intimidating to some students. If we took a page from the middle school dance book and set up basketball or ping-pong tables, I think a much larger student turnout would result. Obviously this would only work for dances like Homecoming and Snowcoming, but those are the events most in need of a little love.

Finally, I've found that my biggest problem with the dances as of late is the fact that I never have any clue when they are.

The Snowcoming dance came and went so quietly that I did not even know it had occurred until I read a story on the poorly attended function in *The Spartana*. This year, semiformal appeared to have snuck up on me as well. If the school wants students to take advantage and show up to these events, it first needs to let the students in on the fact that they are having them. This can be achieved through more posters, more announcement time, or more lunch announcements; the army themed commercial in regard to Morp was innovative and caught my attention--more of that would boost student body awareness.

I don't think my ideas are huge changes, but I think they are significant enough suggestions that if followed through, they would produce results. So, diversify, plan alternatives and advertise, and make the next dance the best one this school has ever seen.

Morp

Army theme
Date: March 18
Time: 8 p.m.-12 a.m.
Location: Hilgers
Cost: $15 per person
Special Feature: Girls ask Guys

Other dances

Homecoming
Semiformal
Snowcoming
Morp
Prom
Dances organized by Student Government

Prom

"A Night in Paris"
Date: May 21
Time: 8p.m-12a.m
Location: Homestead
Cost: TBA
Special Feature: Prom is free for seniors

Dillon Kimmel
News editor

I think I have attended two Homestead dances in my years at this school. Semi-formal this year being one, and Morp last March being the other. I enjoyed both of them equally, mostly because I had a date and the majority of my friends came as well. Why haven't I attended the others? Well, primarily because my friends were not there. That is why kids take the time to come. And when they don't know people, they simply do not show up. Take Snowcoming for example. If you look closely at the sparse crowds gathered around the suddenly oversized cafeteria, you notice that they are separated into a handful of cliques. Everyone there knows someone.

So what, ultimately, could improve the quality of the dances? Well, getting people to them would be a start. Semi Formal and Morp were a blast. I had fun, and it was packed, and I'm sure Prom is the same way. But the other two, Homecoming and Snowcoming, simply have a bad rep. Because of a lack of advertisement and excitement generated by our student government, people simply do not care. They don't want to be a part of something if the people running it can't even generate a buzz.

I give this year's student government props, however. They are open to suggestions and have made important changes involving the election process. They genuinely care about their peers. It is my belief that the attendance problem could be solved easily. Advertisements need to bombard students at all times. Posters and the occasional morning announcement won't cut it. The student body needs to know that the student government is excited about the dance before they will take time out of their weekend to bother and show up. And once they do, they will be pleasantly surprised.

Christy Landrigan
Surplus editor

Student Government has many options if they desire to solve to the problem of low turn-out at dances. A well-prepared advertising campaign is foremost, with content of the dances and music choice following close behind.

The first step is to inform students when dances occur. Too often, dances are advertised only a week or two in advance with a few slipshod posters thrown up in angles along the walls. While many students do not plan their weekend activities in advance, competitions, games, and work are immovable.

After raising awareness of when dances will be held, Student Government can employ more creativity in their marketing strategies. A theme is a great idea, one that potentially builds interest, but lately the themes have been, frankly, lame. Remedies exist even for lame themes, though, the strongest one being all-out development of the theme. For example, MORP was to have a cowpoke theme until they discovered that the company renting out the mechanical bull—yes, we were going to have a mechanical bull—did not have insurance for the gadget. The theme change occurred because of this overlook, but the bull was a prime example of a profit-making scheme. Throw in a line dancing instructor, too, while you're at it. If the theme is the Roaring Twenties, have a dance instructor come and then hold a Charleston contest. If you want high turn-out but don't want students dirty dancing, teach them how to dance otherwise. At least the girls would love to salsa, mambo, or swing, and what the girls do, the guys are sucked into.

The bottom line: do something that we couldn't do in our own basements if we added some Christmas lights to the support beams.

Josh Zurawski
Co-editor in chief

Throughout my time at Homestead I've averaged about one dance per year. Homecoming was not fun as a freshman. Semiformal was the only dance I attended as a sophomore, and prom was the only one my junior year. Over half way through my senior year I have attended zero dances with prom in mind to fill my 'one dance per year' quota.

The novelty of getting dressed up and going to a fancy restaurant with a date never wears out because when you're in high school it happens maybe three or four times a year. That's why I attend school dances because the pre and post events are incredibly entertaining. The actual dance itself is not terribly exciting – especially since I'm not exactly a dancing fool.

Even if I was blessed with quick feet and any sort of rhythm recognition, three chaperones would be on top of me the second I tried to dance. Attendance has been slowly decreasing at dances and the obvious reason is dancing censorship.

Sock-hops were the 1950s, discos were the '70s, and the waltz was, well, a long time ago. If you somehow forgot, this is the year 2005, and our dancing standards are drastically different from those in the past. In fact, like it or not, our dating standards and views towards the opposite sex have drastically changed. Our generation has never had a problem with the highly opposed grinding. Critics say it's too promiscuous, too sexual, while we say 'exactly'.

Teens are becoming more sexually driven because our society deems most displays of affection as unacceptable. The simple fact is kids grind because it's rebellious. If they can't dance how they want at a public function, then they will take their dates to a more private location, and do the no-pants-dance. If I was an adult, I know which sort dancing I'd rather have my child partaking in.

Department of education should administer ISTEP+ test in spring rather than fall

Standardized tests are often indicators of where students lie when compared to a standard. For the state of Indiana, the ISTEP+ test serves the previously mentioned purpose: for high school students, the ISTEP+ shows how students compare to the Indiana State Department of Education's standard for ninth and tenth graders. For the 2004-05 school year, 67% of ninth graders passed the English/language arts portion of ISTEP+, and 68% of ninth graders passed the Math portion of ISTEP+. 68% of sophomores in the state of Indiana passed the English/language arts portion, and 64% of tenth grade students passed the math portion. According to these statistics, approximately one third of the state's high school students do not meet qualifications for ninth and tenth grade academic levels.

In order to improve passing levels for freshmen and sophomores within the state of Indiana, the department of education should administer the test in the spring semester rather than the fall one. For this school year, the ISTEP+ was first administered to students of both grade levels from September 21, 2004 until September 24, 2004. The retake for the ISTEP+ was scheduled from March 15, 2005 until March 17, 2005. When students are tested in the fall, they have not been educated enough to exemplify the work level of their respective grade levels. For example, a sophomore in high school is far more knowledgeable in the spring (after having spent six months in school) than he is in the fall (after having spent one month in school). Because ISTEP+ tests are indicators of a student's level of performance at a particular grade level, tests should be administered in March.

If tests are administered later in the year, more students would be able to pass because throughout the course of the year, students would have acquired advanced math skills and better reading comprehension techniques.

The current test is not an accurate reflection of students' knowledge and skills as ninth and tenth graders in the state of Indiana. Students should be given the opportunity to develop skills throughout the course of the school year before having to take the ISTEP+ test. Consequently, if students fail the ISTEP+ tests after their administration in March, they can retake the exams in the fall. A student's failure will truly be accurate if a student fails towards the conclusion of his sophomore or freshmen year rather than failing at the beginning of the school year.

Passing the ISTEP+ test is required for graduation from any high school within the state; therefore, the test is important for high school students. Undoubtedly, the administration of this test deserves to be amended so that students are not disadvantaged when taking the test.

The department of education will reap better passing statistics if the ISTEP+ is administered in the spring when students' academic skills are developed, and they are better prepared to pass the examination. **Editorial Board Vote: 4 For, 1 Against**

Grants for science teachers. 1A • Brain drain. 4A • ISTEP+ testing. 5A • Greece. 8A •
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Annexation: the pros and cons of integrating Aboite township into city

Maria Didier
Writer

Through the years, Southwest Allen County has been building our community to be outstanding and successful. However, on January 1, the county will be split due to the annexation. Although some of the councilmen have tried to stop the annexation, their efforts were in vain.

Many residents of Southwest Allen will have to pay taxes to the city of Fort Wayne in addition to paying taxes to Southwest Allen. With the annexation 25,000 people will be incorporated into Fort Wayne. These homeowners will have an astronomical increase of up to 30% in their taxes starting January 1, 2006. The annexation bill was passed in 1998 when the issue was first brought up under Mayor Paul Helmke.

Also, the homeowners incorporated into Ft. Wayne will have to pay school taxes to Southwest Allen. These new increases in taxes will hurt many of the homeowners. The only reason the Fort Wayne city government is taking away 13 square miles of Allen County is to boost the city's income.

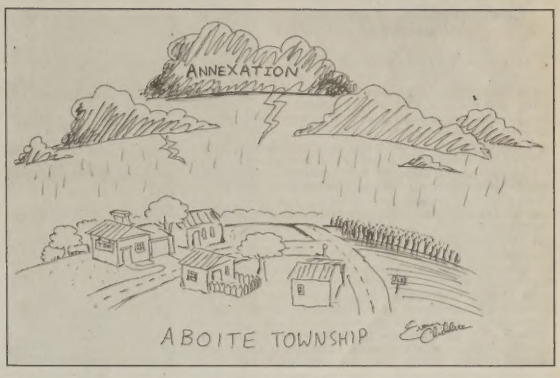
Annexation will sacrifice a developing community simply to gain tax dollars. With the new districts, many questions are brought up by the concerned homeowners. What are the benefits of becoming part of the city? New fire stations have to be built because the city is now in charge of the annexed areas. Though the Aboite Firehouse is closer to all the homes being annexed in Southwest, the government is taking out tax money to supply new ones because of the annexation.

Aboite Township will be receiving garbage pick-up, street lighting, leaf pick-up, street repairs, snow removal, and street tree pruning. The truth of the matter is that most residents do not feel the need for these added "perks" because they are already getting these services from the county or private businesses. Taxpayers do not need to pay more money to Fort Wayne when they already pay money to southwest Allen for these services. Since the city has its own sewer system, some of the homes in the county will need to put in a system costing around $10,000.

Even with all the "benefits" of annexation, the main goal of the Fort Wayne was to generate surplus income. City Councilman John Crawford bluntly admitted that the primary goal of the annexation was not to better Aboite but to make money for the city. According to the city, homeowners will be paying for the annexation about three to four years after the initial entrance into the city. Why go to all this trouble for more tax money? The city has already put in roughly $8 million in preparation for the annexation. Who is going to pay for the additions to better the city? The taxpayers and the new residents being added to Fort Wayne will have to pay for the new additions.

By adding 25,000 people to the city of Fort Wayne, tension increases between councilmen and residents of Southwest Allen. The benefits to incoming residents may not really be benefits because of the increase in taxes. The money spent by the government to provide the addition is coming out of homeowners' pockets. So, why are we being annexed?

Maria Didier is a junior and works as a writer for the Spartana. *The views and opinions expressed in this column do not necessarily represent those of* the Spartana *or of its staff.*



Student Input

"I think that the annexation of Aboite township will not be beneficial in the end because people living in Allen County will have to pay more taxes."

David Greco (9)

"Annexation means that Allen County will become part of Fort Wayne, right?"

Krista Hopper (12)

Austin Hetrick
Writer

30-odd years ago, my uncle, Brian Hetrick, began his high school experience at Homestead High school. At that point Homestead, and much of what is Aboite Township, was surrounded by cornfields. In 30 years, much has changed: businesses, shopping centers, and neighborhoods reside where forest once thrived, schools and stoplights have replaced farms and outer homes. Progress has come to Aboite Township, and in a year, it will all belong to the city of Fort Wayne. The controversy surrounding this issue has brought out the passions of the entire city, and continue to today.

In order to look at this issue fairly, we must ask ourselves the motivation behind Fort Wayne's annexation of our land. We must recognize that indeed, we are being annexed because of the general wealth of the population in Aboite, but this is no reason to fight annexation. Aboite's current success stands in stark contrast to Fort Wayne's problems and recent economic slump.

Yet pause a moment and think of the reasons why Aboite is so successful at this time while the rest of Fort Wayne has regressed in its economic struggles and lost some 40,000 residents. In 30 years what could possibly explain this huge shift of success? For me, there is at least one obvious answer: the introduction of a high-paying, industrial plant within daily driving distance from the center of Aboite.

The GM plant was not attracted by Homestead high school, or the few Aboite businesses of the time, but by the proximity of Fort Wayne, and its economic possibilities. What happened however is that Fort Wayne delivered unto the citizens of Aboite Township and the area, what has become a business providing 2900 total jobs, the average wage being more than 26 dollars an hour. The total wages paid by the GM plant currently are more than 240 million dollars.

> "Fort Wayne is struggling to become an economic and regional center of Indiana, and with the additional taxes provided by the annexation of Aboite, this will become much more possible."

Fort Wayne in 1984 learned that the GM Truck and Bus Group would build an Assembly near the city. Granted, many of the employees at that time lived in the city limits and many from around the area other than Aboite; the same remains true today. But this major industry, attracted by the city of Fort Wayne, helped Aboite become a major residential area and today a growing place of business. In 1984, the spark of economy provided by GM's plant helped to start Aboite's current economic boom.

This is but a single reason why we, the citizens of Aboite, owe Fort Wayne much more than we are willing to admit. In this dawning century, the city of Fort Wayne is struggling to become an economic and regional center of Indiana, and with the additional taxes provided by the annexation of Aboite, this will become much more possible. This goal is important not only to the law makers and people who call the inner-city home, but to all of us who depend on Fort Wayne's economic success; and Aboite is certainly one area that cannot, and should not stand on its own.

Yes, Aboite is largely being taken into the city for its citizens' wealth, but can we not grant an increase of our taxes to the city that has helped make us as successful as we are? Is a thirty-percent increase in property taxes an attack too deep on our pride and pocketbooks for the benefits we receive by being near the Memorial Coliseum, Embassy Theater, Lincoln Center, and all of the other features that make our city as great as it really is? In truth *

In any case, we are not giving up our money for nothing. City services, which in all honesty we may not have needed, will be granted to us, providing added security and protection for our community as well as some satisfaction that our money has gone to good use. Already eight million dollars has been allotted to Aboite, and the construction of several fire stations and addition of police officers to the Southwest district is under way.

Fort Wayne is where I live, and where my family history remains. My uncle has moved away like so many, but I remain here. I have never told my friends that I live in some township on the outskirts of a city. I have always claimed my home in Fort Wayne, and will continue to do so. In another year I will at last be able to tell those who ask, that Fort Wayne is my home, knowing that my family help support the many functions that make our city what it is, and will help it remain so far into the future.

Austin Hetrick is a sophomore and works as a writer for the Spartana. *The views and opinions expressed in this column do not necessarily represent those of* the Spartana *or of its staff.*

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Reaping success

Speech team qualifies ten students to state; speakers travel to IUPUI on Saturday

Lee Farnsworth
Business Manager

For nearly six months they have practiced and prepared in order to reach this point. They have spent hours perfecting their inflection and hand motions or pouring through periodicals in order to find the perfect piece to support their assertion. Now, after all of the hard work and preparation, the speech team members are beginning to reap the rewards of their hard labor.

The speech team is sending ten competitors to state finals on Saturday, March 19, in hopes of bringing home first place awards in several categories including discussion, radio, domestic and foreign extemporaneous, original oratory, and oratorical interpretation. The team will travel to IUPUI in order to compete.

From this high school, Neil Shah (12) and Pratheek Bhat (12) will compete in discussion, a competition in which the students debate and discuss several issues. Shah and Bhat placed first and second at sectionals, respectively. Sean Veith (12) and John Greco (12), the team's president, will be competing in radio. Greco placed first at sectional competition as well. Sanjeev Balamohan (12), Puja Parikh (10), and Suhasini Bhargava (12) will compete in Foreign Extemporaneous, in which participants speak about a topic relating to foreign affairs. Rishi Ardeshna (12) will compete in Domestic Extemporaneous, in which participants speak about a topic related to affairs within the United States. The participants in extemporaneous categories provide their own research to incorporate into their speech. Christy Landrigan (12) will compete in Original Oratory, in which participants write and present an original work. Sushma Jonna (12) will compete in Oratorical Interpretation, in which participants memorize the speech of someone else and then perform it. Bhargava will also compete in impromptu, in which competitors make up their speech about a specified theme on the spot. With all of these participants in state competition, the speech team members are pleased and proud of their performance this year.

"Even though I didn't make it to state this year," Sanjay Guneshekar (9) said, "I am still proud of how the team as a whole did. I think that everyone will do very well at state competition."

Students will leave from Homestead at 4:30 am on Saturday morning for IUPUI. All of Saturday will be consumed with competition and the students will return late Saturday.

For the first time since the year 2002, Homestead will also be sending competitors to the national competition this summer in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Bhargava and Greco will be competing in Foreign Extemporaneous and Congress, in which students debate the passage of several mock bills in true legislative style. Greco just recently learned of the fact that he qualified. This happened because the individuals who qualified ahead of him had also advanced in another category. A contestant is only allowed to enter one event at nationals. As a result, Greco filled the vacant spot. The competition will last six days from June twelfth to the seventeenth.

The team also has executive board elections fast approaching. Coach Travis Fisher will select the team's leaders for next year. However, due to the large number of graduating seniors on this year's team, there is some concern that the team will not have enough candidates for each position. Because of this, the team will be consolidating or eliminating some offices to compensate for the smaller number of applicants.

The team's success has been apparent throughout the season: the team placed third at sectionals, and finished in first place at the Bellmont meet.

The team has had many successes this year and is confident that this success will continue at state competition. This has been a great year for the members of the Spartan speech team, and the season now culminates in state competition. The successes of the season up to this point will hopefully carry over into the state competition for the team.

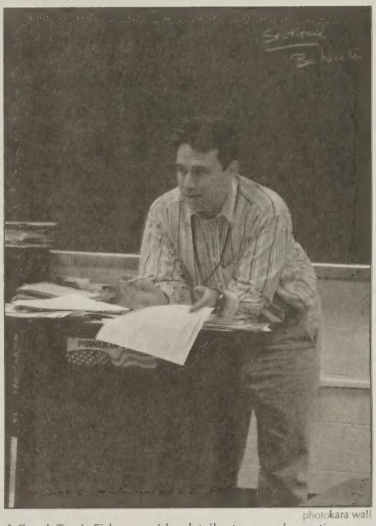
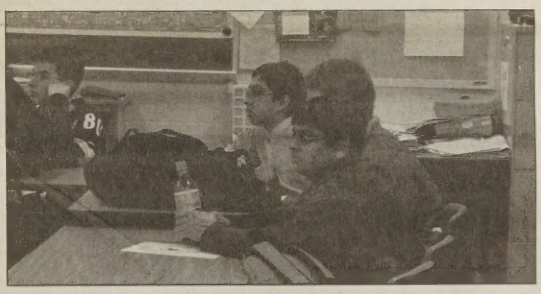
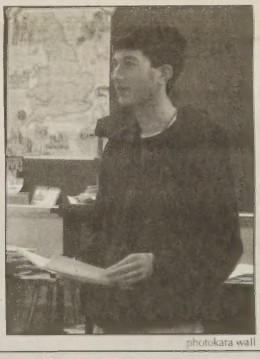


photo:kara wall

Coach Travis Fisher provides details at a speech meeting.





photokara wall

Rahul Gupta (9), Tanner Billingsley (9), and Pavan Rao (9) listen to the president speak. Right: John Greco (12), president, runs the weekly Wednesday speech team meeting.

Lilly nominations awarded to Linsmeyer, Neiswender

Scholarship provides full tuition to any college in state of Indiana

Tyler Churchward
Designer

Recently, Sam Linsmeyer (12) and Ashley Neiswender (12) were nominated for the Lilly Scholarship. Linsmeyer and Neiswender were chosen from a large number of seniors who filled out an application for the nomination. From a panel of school teachers, counselors, and other faculty members, two seniors were chosen to receive the nomination. The applications were due in early January and Linsmeyer and Neiswender heard of their nomination a few weeks later, around mid-January.

Since there are a total of fifteen schools in Allen County and each school nominates two seniors for the scholarship, there are a total of thirty nominees eligible to win. Of those thirty, six are chosen, and those six will receive full tuition at any college within the state of Indiana. The college can be public or private, so the student could go anywhere from Ivy Tech to Notre Dame and the Lilly Endowment Scholarship Organization will pay whatever the cost may be. Along with their tuition being paid for in full, each of the winners receives a yearly allowance for books or other expenses that may be incurred at college.

"I think it's about 1000 bucks per year to pay for books or whatever," Linsmeyer said.

Linsmeyer plans to go to Purdue University in West Lafayette, Indiana. His major is undecided as of yet, but he has been accepted to the undergraduate studies program.

"It's a program that allows you to decide what you want to study for your major," Linsmeyer said.

Neiswender plans to attend Indiana University to possibly pursue a double major in English and Political Science.

Linsmeyer played football at Homestead for four years, participated in Dance Marathon for four years, was named Prom King last year, and was on the Homecoming Court this year. Neiswender was a member of National Honor Society during her junior and senior years.

Homestead has been very successful in past years with the Lilly Scholarship, Carmen Schlatter ('04) and Duke Lines ('04) were both recipients in 2004. Linsmeyer and Neiswender will find out if they are one of the six recipients in April, 2005.

Sam Linsmeyer (12) performs at the variety show.

News from Student Government

MORP is tonight from 8 - 12 p.m. at Hilger's. Shirts will be sold at the door for $15, so even if you didn't buy a shirt, you can buy one there!
Prom is just around the corner, the theme is "A Night In Paris."
Also, the annual blood drive is coming up. Our goal is 70 units of blood.

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Grecian Glory

Andrew Elbrecht (11) travels to Athens, Greece in summer to watch Olympic games

Christy Landrigan
Surplus Editor

As most students were filing into classes near the end of summer, Andrew Elbrecht (11) was filing into a stadium in Athens, Greece to watch the Olympic games.

"My uncle saw something on TV that said that they had a lot of extra tickets so he bought them and we went," Elbrecht said. "The trip wasn't planned at all in advance. I went with my Uncle Tom and my cousin Clifford. My uncle called me on Thursday before I left on Saturday and then we got back Monday, the 31st of August."

The last minute trip to the Olympics caused Elbrecht to be absent from the opening days of school when classroom rules are introduced, but Elbrecht says that his absence did not play a significant role in his academics.

"I missed the first four days of school," Elbrecht said. "It didn't really matter to me; I didn't care."

Although his absence posed little problem, his different cultural habits initially caused him to experience slight culture shock in the new environment.

"The weirdest thing I've ever seen is that the shower didn't have a door to it," Elbrecht said. "I was freaking out. There wasn't anything you could do. You just stood there and hoped no one walked in. It was crazy."

His experience with the open shower was the second shock, the first being the odor of his fellow game-goers.

"When I flew into Rome I thought that everyone smelled really bad and it was really weird," Elbrecht said. "It's really dirty over there--everything is filthy and people don't mind peeing in the streets."

The filth of the city was evident daily as his group left their hotel each morning.

"When we'd leave every morning around 8 or 9 o'clock, there'd be a drunk man and they'd be cleaning up the urine in the street," Elbrecht said.

Another aspect of his experience that surprised him were the street dwellers who were commonly of a furry complexion.

"There were a lot of dogs walking the street," Elbrecht said. "Anywhere you'd go you'd find a dog. We heard on the news that 5000 dogs were in the pound. I guess it was acceptable in their society to let your dog roam the streets, but they were afraid that it would offend the visitors so they rounded them all up and housed them in a fenced area with plans to let them back out into the streets after the games were over."

The Grecian concern not to offend was one that permeated the atmosphere of the games, so Elbrecht had little difficulty being understood.

"Everyone knows English over there so it wasn't too hard to communicate," Elbrecht said. "Because of the Olympics there wasn't much culture, so it was pretty mellow because they didn't want to offend anybody."

With the cultural differences that did exist, he gushes about what he considers the best one of his trip.

"The food was the best—ever," Elbrecht said. "The wine is really good and Greek salads are amazing with the feta cheese. I forget what it was called, but it was amazing. It was like a chicken wrap with French fries in it. Oh my gosh, it was amazing."

That he ate at some of the area's the best restaurants aided in the caliber of food he consumed.

At the restaurants, he noticed a peculiar difference from typical American dining.

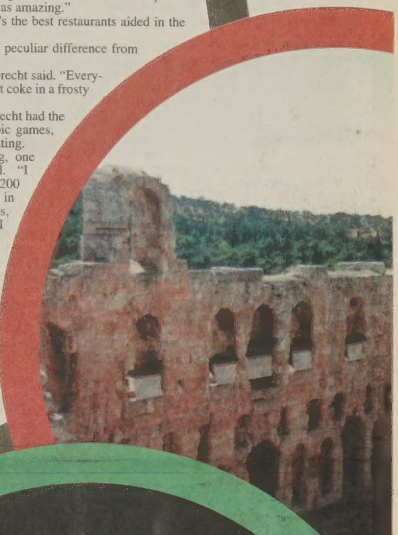
"All the water was bottled," Elbrecht said. "Everything was in a bottle. Like you'd get coke in a frosty bottle or beer mug."

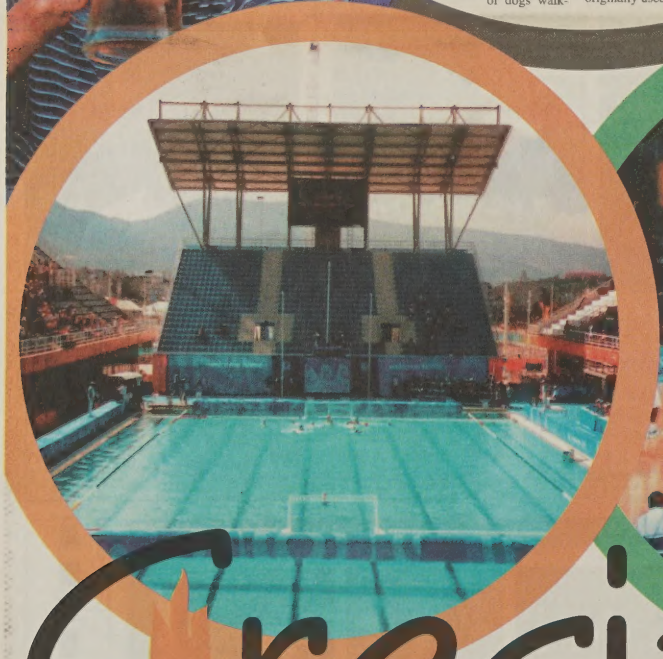
Beyond dining and culture, Elbrecht had the opportunity to observe the Olympic games, which he has no difficulty enumerating.

"I saw kayaking and canoeing, one man and two man," Elbrecht said. "I also saw track and field the men's 200 final. I saw the women's relays in 4x2. I also sat up at the Acropolis, the big building on top of the hill. I went to the Greek Isles, Hydra and Mykonos."

With all of his exposure to Olympic lore, he says that visiting the Acropolis was one of his favorite activities.

"The Acropolis was pretty cool. It was from ancient Greece like a fortress on top of a hill," Elbrecht said. "When you're up there you can pretty much see all the way around because it's located in a valley. They're restoring it right now. They use the old techniques that were originally used."





AIM's flaws. 4A • Improving school dances. 5A • Lilly Scholarship. 7A • Grecian Glory. 8A
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photos/zach hetrick

For the fourth straight year, the varsity dance team placed first in the lyrical division at the state competition. They also placed third in jazz.

Cementing a dynasty of grace

Katie Johnston (top) and Alex Kruse (bottom) pose for the judges.

Matt Anderson
Sports Editor

After three state lyrical division one championships, capturing another title may seem to be no big accomplishment-because it's not. Winning four straight lyrical championships is a huge accomplishment.

Capping off a fourth straight season as lyrical state champions, the girls varsity dance team continues to prove they are the best in the state year after year. On March 4th and 5th the Homestead dance teams competed at Lawrence North in the state dance competition. The team would return with a first place ranking in lyrical and a third place finish in jazz.

"We were obviously really excited," Betsy Peoples (12) said. "This year we had extremely strong competition and we were really excited to win lyrical again and get third in jazz. We faced the toughest competition I've seen since being on the team, and placing third in jazz was basically a first for us. The weekend just went really well."

When looking back on the competition the team of thirteen girls from freshmen to seniors feel they performed the best they could as a group, and were happy with the final standings. Taking first was a massive accomplishment for the team, but taking third in jazz was almost equally rewarding. The team finished fifth last year, and had never been ranked in the top three.

"The competition was everything we had wanted it be," Leah Newcomb (12) said. "We accomplished our goals and beat Muster in the jazz division, a team that we had never beat before in regular competition. We placed ahead of them at our own competition, but couldn't officially place so it didn't count. Plus, for some of the seniors we were able to win the lyrical division all four years which is amazing."

After learning they had placed third in jazz and had beaten Munster, the team reacted with even more initial enthusiasm than when they learned they had won the lyrical division.

"During awards we aren't the team that jumps up and down and freaks out, but in regard to jazz we decided that if we got third we would do our share of celebrating," Peoples said. "Before they announced the placings we were really nervous, and then once we found out we got third in jazz we were really excited, and started jumping around and laughing, all of that stuff."

Outside of the group competition the solo performers reaped numerous accolades. In the varsity solo category, Katie Johnston (12) placed second, Adrienne Ahee (12) placed third, Alex Kruse (11) placed fourth, and Kelly Childs (11) took sixth. In the Junior division Jenna Wise (9) was crowned champion, Kelly Strothman (9) took seventh, and Natalie Wray (9) took sixth.

"It was great to win at state," Wise said. "I think it is a lot more nerve-wracking to compete at state, because everyone has qualified to be there, and everyone is good. Also, at state the crowds are a lot bigger, because everyone qualifies, so there is a lot of pressure. Still, I feel I do better when there's pressure, but I could see how for some it could be really hard to perform."

The duet group of Johnston and Kruse also proved to be a state champion as they took home the first place trophy for small ensemble. The large ensemble made up of Johnston, Wise, Kruse, Ahee, and Childs also placed first at the state competition. That meant the girls took first at every competition they had competed at for the year.

"We weren't sure what we were going to get, but we had placed first at every other competition," Wise said. "The level of competition is higher at state, but we did very well and won. So, that was pretty exciting."

Now that the state competition is over the girls competitive season has officially concluded. Their only remaining performances are at a spring show the Friday after spring break and the spring arts week performance. This means that the state competition marked the final competitive high school team dancing the six seniors would ever do. For some seniors the ending of their high school dance career has sad undertones, but the fact that they can remember their last performances as a win will be an extremely positive thing to look back on.

"For the seniors this year, I think it was a really nice way to end the year," Peoples said. "When we got the placings and realized it was over, it was a great moment but also a sad moment. We're extremely happy with how our season and careers have ended."

Jenna Wise (top) and Holley Dickmeyer (bottom).

Gymnastics falls short and finishes season with record of 7-3

Josh Butcher
Writer

With high hopes to make it to regionals, the girls gymnastics team fell a bit short at sectionals. The ladies finished up with a 7-3 record after facing many tough competitors this season. Although they didn't do as well as they wished to in sectionals, the girls felt they had an great overall season this year. The gymnasts worked extremely hard, reaching many personal goals as well as team goals. With the season finished, it is time for the girls to reflect on how they did this year and what expectations they have for next year.

Going into sectionals the ladies felt they had a strong chance of flying through to regionals. Since many good teams such as Snider, Carroll, and Concordia lost some of their valuable girls, Homestead felt good about their meet on the fifth of March. It was a shock when they found out Snider got back one of their key gymnasts. Still reaching for regionals, the girls competed to the best of their abilities, but fell short by a fraction of a point. Missing their big goal by a fraction of a point was a devastating way to end the season but they felt they did the best they could and finished up a strong season proudly.

> "We had a pretty good season, we gave it our all."
> Kristin Chenoweth (9)

"We had a pretty good season," Kristin Chenoweth (9) said. "We gave it our all."

Chenoweth was one of the freshman that stepped it up this year and was a big contribution to the team. With freshmen such as herself, the team knows they are set for a few years to come. "We have a good freshman class coming in so I think next year we will be at least as good as we were this year," Chenoweth said.

Even with the loss next year of twin gymnasts Shelley and Vicki Toth (12) the team will still most likely improve. Along with the new freshman class, the Spartans will also be acquiring a brand new spring floor and some other nicer equipment.

Although the team finished out with an excellent, winning record they had a few weak spots. They excelled on the beam and floor, but if they had a little trouble somewhere it was on the bars and vault. During practices this year they worked hard on the areas they needed to improve on. This helped them to grow as the season went on and succeed as well as they did. Laid back coach Erica McEvoy also made it fun for the girls, while keeping them competitive and doing their bests.

Coming so close to getting to regionals was a heartbreaking experience for the girls, but they accomplished their goals of having fun, doing their bests, and also achieving their goal of breaking 100 points. The competition will be just as strong next year, but Homestead will be fully prepared. The JV gymnasts showed their potential this year and will add a lot to the team next year as well as the returning members. They are looking good for the 2005-2006 season, and will be striving to win sectionals and make it to regionals next year.

The struggles of this years team is an incentive to work even harder next year.

Varsity Dance.1B • Winter Wrap Up.2B • Bowling.3B • Intramural Basketball.4B
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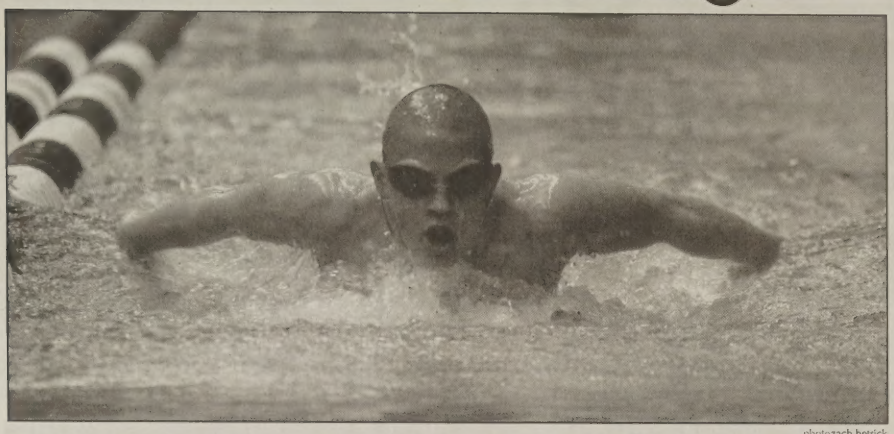


photo zach hetrick

Ryan Dafforn (10) swims the butterfly stroke at the state swim and dive competition held in Indianapolis at the IUPUI natatorium.

Winter sports teams go above, beyond expectations

Erin Quinn
Writer

With perhaps the most successful season of all the winter sports, the girls swim and dive team won both the conference and sectional meets. At the state competition, three individuals placed in the top eight in their events: Jessica Skiba (10), Macy Zander (10), and Kelly Johnson (11). The top eight finishes, combined with diver Sam Nolting's (11) stellar 12th place finish and other impressive performances, caused the team to edge out Snider by one and a half points for fourth place overall. The girls improved five places from the state meet last year, and with a team loaded with underclassmen, are only expecting to place higher next season. Their only tarnish in the loss column of the season was to Carmel, who has won state for the last 19 years in a row.

The boys swim and dive team also dominated its conference and sectional meets, and was anticipated to finish in the top three at the state competition. Apprehension, or merely a string of bad races, caused the boys to come in a respectable eighth place, tying with Warsaw. Although it did not meet their expectation, their state finish was nonetheless impressive, and their undefeated regular season should not be overlooked.

Their infamous training regime began the second week of November, and produced extraordinary results, such as a school first- placing three divers in the top nine places at state. They were the following results: Dan Frebel (12) placed 5th, David Piercy (11) placed 8th, and Cameron Hansbarger (11), placed 9th.

While the girls swim and dive team beat Snider twice, the boys basketball squad lost two important games, the game on Senior Night and the second round of sectionals, to the Panthers. They entered the postseason with a 13-7 record, going 5-2 in the NHC. Played at Huntington North's own gym, the first round of sectionals ended in victory over the Vikings. The boys met Snider for the second time in the sectional semifinals, where the Panthers won by three points to end the Spartans' postseason run.

The girls basketball team didn't make it out of their first sectional game, despite a valiant effort. Huntington North, ranked 8th in the state, pulled away in the final quarter of the sectional quarterfinal to win 50-38. With only three seniors- Jenna Pierce (12), Hannah Weide (12), and Kristin Bruce (12), the fairly young team has high expectations for next season to improve upon their 8-14 comprehensive record of this year.

After a successful season, the wrestling team itself failed to advance to the regional competition, but seven individuals placed high enough in sectionals to move on. Of the seven who wrestled at the regional meet, only Matt Witham (12), Clinton Smith (12), Brian Wight (12), Justin Allen (12), and Derek Hackl (11) moved on to the semi-state competition. Allen and Wight were the only wrestlers to compete in Indianapolis at the state meet, where Allen placed 4th in the 189 lb. class, and Wight placed 8th in the 112 lb. class. Individual accomplishments, such as Wight's, Witham's, and Allen's conference, sectional, regional victories in their weight divisions, as well as team accomplishments, like beating Carroll in sectionals and winning the New Haven Invitational contributed to the success of the team.

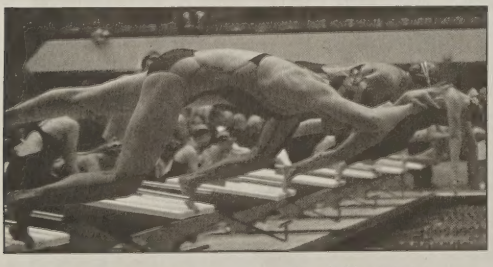
The dance team finished an impressive season, placing 1st in their lyrical dance in every single competition they entered. Their jazz and lyrical dances both won at the regional competition, sending them to state, where they won the lyrical section and placed third for their jazz dance. At state in the junior solo division, Jenna Wise (9) placed second, and in the senior solo division, Katie Johnston (12), Adrienne Ahee (12) Alex Kruse (11), and Kelly Childs (12) placed second, third, fourth, and seventh, respectively. Both the small and large ensembles finished first.

The bowling team placed 8th in their sectional, finishing with a 6-7 record. Erick Brabin (11) was the top bowler on the team, averaging over 190 points per game.

The hockey team started off the first half of their season with a 6-3-1 record. Midway through their season, the entire coaching staff quit and many players lost eligibility to play. Despite a small bench and impromptu coaching, the team surprised the league by winning their game against Snider, who had previously beaten them, going to the city championships, and also going undefeated in the second half of the season. Carroll scored five goals in the final period of the city championship game to win, bring the Spartan's record to 15-3-1.

The gymnastics team came excruciatingly close to advancing out of sectionals, losing to Snider by a mere seventh tenths of a point. Shelley Toth (12) is the only team member remaining in postseason competition. Toth competed on March 12th in the uneven bars in the regional gymnastics meet at Huntington North.

Cameron Hansbarger (11) does a backward dive at state.



Swimmers begin a heat at the state competition held at IUPUI.

photo zach hetrick

Courtney Garton (12) does her balance beam routine.

Upcoming spring sports anticipate success this year

Sam Van Horn
Writer

Spring is a time of year where the outdoors captivates our mind. Sports, from baseball to track, take over the high school world, and this year, some of the most successful teams will be playing their best to achieve one common goal: to win everything from sectionals to state.

This year's golf team looks to improve from last year as they finished second in conference and fourth in sectionals.

"This year we should make regionals if not state," Erich Johnston (10) said.

Last year the team did not have any seniors on the team.

"We have a bunch of seniors on the team this year and that gives us more experience," Johnston said.

Tryouts were supposed to begin on Monday March 14; however, due to snow still on the course they were not able to hold tryouts yet. The team should be assembled by spring break bringing in about two new freshmen.

Boys track and field performed well last season finishing second in conference. Track is different than other sports in aspect of progressing through the post season. Only individuals are allowed to move past conference and into sectionals, eventually to regionals and state.

"We should have a few more qualify this year," Evan Niner (11) said of advancing in the post season.

This year's team looks even better though according to Niner.

"We should have a pretty good team this year," Niner said. "We have a lot of 4x8 and distance guys back."

As far as the new people coming in, Niner said, "We have good freshmen that have been running well so far."

It's difficult to perform better than near perfection; however, the girls tennis team will attempt to do so this year. They finished second at state last season, and have reached state eight times in the last 16 years.

"We hope to be as strong as last year," Coach Jim Shull said. "We lost three seniors including a number one doubles team and a number two doubles player."

The team is having conditioning this week and there should be a team assembled by the end of March.

The baseball team last season finished with a record of 14-15. They did not perform as well as they should have; however, with more leadership this season they look to turn that around.

"We have better team chemistry and more work ethic," Taylor Kinzer (11) said. "There is more leadership this season and everyone has determination."

The team lost three senior pitchers last season, an area that this year's team needs to improve on. The one way they can do that is to fill the whole with younger players.

"We have pretty solid underclassmen stepping up," Kinzer said. "Everyone has been training hard in the winter."

Softball and girls track both look to have very successful years as well. This season for softball, there are eight seniors and seven juniors. Strong leadership should help propel this team to perform better than last year.

"This is the past team in the past four years," said Coach Tom Clagg.

Girls track, on the other hand, is expected to win again as they have for almost all of the past ten years.

Boys basketball season concluded with suspenseful game

Team wins against Huntington North after early struggle; boys look forward to next year's successes

Tyler Keena
Writer

After a 17-13 regular season marked by many highs and many lows, the boys basketball team headed into sectional competition hoping to make a run at the title.

In their first sectional game, the Spartans were matched up against and tough Huntington North team led by star guard Chris Kramer. The future Purdue basketball player led the Vikings past the Spartans in their last meeting during the regular season. However, the team was determined to return the favor when it really counted during sectionals.

But it appeared as though the Vikings were going to coast through the Spartans once more on their way to the sectional semifinals. At one point during the game, Huntington North had a 17-point lead which seemed almost insurmountable. However, the Spartans clawed their way back into the game in a courageous performance. The team hit big shots when they counted late in the game.

"We hit like four or five threes in a row and Trevor [Terrell] (11) had a big steal," Jono Cobb (11) said. "It was bigger than Shaq."

The Spartans were able to complete the run behind the hot shooting of their guards and good defense. The 17-point deficit was quickly erased and the Spartans won the game in dramatic fashion. The final score of the game was 66-63. Grant Leiendecker (11) and Terrell were the team's two leading scorers.

This win gave the Spartans the confidence that they needed heading into the semifinals, where they were scheduled to face Snider, which has emerged as one of Homestead's biggest rivals in nearly every sport. The Panthers, led

> "There's a lot of room for improvement, and I think we could definitely be even better next year."
>
> Jono Cobb (11)

by junior stars Marques Johnson and Ryan Sims, beat the Spartans in a nail-biter late in the regular season, so the Spartans entered the game once again looking to avenge their loss.

However, the Spartans once again got off to a slow start. The team was down by in the first half, but still knew that, after their game against Huntington North, that if they put together some big shots, they were definitely capable of making a comeback.

The second half was dominated by the Spartans as they fought back once again and even took the lead. Brandon Parker (11) hit an important three to put the Spartans right back in the game.

"When I hit that three, I never saw Coach Johnson so happy in my life," Parker said. "We were back in the game."

Ben Haifley (12) also came up with a three-point play give the Spartans the lead with under two minutes to play.

"I got the rebound, went up for a jumpshot, and got fouled," Haifley said. "I made the shot and hit the free throw to put us up one late in the game. It gave us some momentum but we just couldn't capitalize."

The Spartans could not hold on to their lead after Haifley's three-point play, as Snider hit a shot to take the lead and Homestead was forced into a fouling situation. The Spartans eventually lost the game 66-63.

"They just hit their free throws and we couldn't make any of our shots late in the game," Cobb said.

The team appears as though they have a bright future. Jeff Grabowski (12) and Haifley are the only seniors that will be lost, and the strong junior backcourt of Terrell, Cobb, and Leiendecker will be returning for another run next year.

"We're losing two key players but we have a lot of returning players next year too," Cobb said. "There's a lot of room for improvement and I think we could be even better next year."

Girls Dance Team. 1B • Boys Basketball. 2B • Boys Lacrosse. 3B • Intramural Basketball. 4B
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JV dancers win second place in jazz division at state competition

photoszach hetrick

» JV dance team performs at Lawrence North High School for the dance State Competition. Enthusiastic in their expression, the girls perform their pom routine.

» Kelsey Mrowczynski leaps in the air while crossing the floor during a dance.» Christine Hanson (10) performs in a line during the pom routine at State.

Matt Anderson
Sports Editor

The girls JV dance team entered the state finals competition with determination and left with a sense of accomplishment.

On March 4th and 5th, the varsity and JV dance teams traveled down to Lawrence North High School and competed in the two-day state competition. By the end of the weekend's performances, the JV team would be awarded second in the division four jazz category and fourth in the division four pom category. The dance team was excited about ranking so high in both divisions.

"We did really well the weekend of state," Nishi Patel (11). "We're really proud of how we placed in both categories. It was a great way to finish the season."

After the team heard that they had placed as well as they did they started the celebrations almost immediately.

"After placements we were really, really excited for both the JV and the varsity team," Patel said. "We clapped and jumped around a lot, and then celebrated on the bus trip back home."

The group performances were on the second day, Saturday, March 5th, but solos and ensembles performed the day before. Two JV members were entered into the junior division in which all dancers from grades six through twelve perform. Natalie Wray (9) and Kelly Strothman (9) both had advanced to the state competition level, with Wray placing first at the regional level. On Friday, both girls performed to crowds a little larger than they were used to.

"I was a little nervous because of the amount of people that were there when I performed," Wray said. "Still, it was that much more fun knowing all of them were watching me, and it wasn't that bad since I have been dancing for a long time and I am used to big competitions. My solo went really well even though I had been sick the week before. The enthusiasm in the gym made it that much more exciting to perform."

Wray eventually was given sixth place and Strothman was named seventh place. Wray believes the team completed almost all of their individual and group goals set for the weekend.

"We placed right around what we were aiming for," Wray said. "We wanted to get into the top three in the jazz division, and in the top five for pom. So, overall the weekend went really well. We danced really well as a group and all the soloists did great jobs."

> "I was a little nervous because of the amount of people that were there when I performed. Still, it was that much more fun knowing all of them were watching me."
>
> Natalie Wray

A big piece of the JV and varsity teams' success have been due to the support each group gives the other. The girls are always helping each other, and trying to cheer one another on.

"Whether you are a varsity member or a JV dancer, you are a member of the Homestead dance team," Wray said. "Just like every team, all the team members want to be successful. So, all the JV and varsity support each other. At state, we were there to support every single dance. Homestead showed other schools that we are one group."

To prepare for the weekend the team stepped up their practicing, and participated in some end of the year bonding before they made the trip to Lawrence North.

"We always practice twice a week, but the week leading up to the state competition we had some intense practices," Patel said. "Plus, before we left for the competition we had about half an hour that we exchanged secret pal gifts and took pictures."

Now that all the competitions are over the team only has to worry about a couple more performances in the spring, but is basically done for the year. Looking back, the girls feel they have been extremely successful this season.

"This year has been a huge success," Wray said. "We all worked well together and placed well at the competitions we attended. This was my first year on the team, and I had a lot of fun all season, and am looking forward to next year."

Lacrosse team members gear up on the field for their first ever Spartan season

Evan Childers
Writer

Lacrosse is officially a club sport at Homestead High School for the first time in the storied history of the school. As Homestead Club Lacrosse enters its first season, enthusiastic local players are fine-tuning their skills for upcoming contests with other area teams. This brings lacrosse into the local spotlight, prompting many students to ask the question: "What exactly is lacrosse?"

"Lacrosse is an extremely competitive, physical sport." Team Captain Ben Deschner (12) said. "It requires fitness, agility, and coordination. Beyond that, one also needs the brute strength of a football player- but neither strength nor finess alone will when you games. Team work is extremely important. Overall though, lacrosse simply requires a combination of many, many abilities."

Games are played on a field approximately the size of a regulation soccer field. Teams consist of ten players. Each team has three defenders, three midfielders, three attackers, and one goalie. Using a specialized stick with a net on the end, players attempt to throw a small rubber ball into the opponent's goal. They may pass the ball to each other all over the field in an effort to accomplish this. Games are four quarters long, and the team with the highest score at the end of the game wins.

The defenders and attackers are each relegated to a certain zone and have distinctive jobs, while the midfielders must be versatile players with excellent endurance. Attackers and midfielders carry the same type of short lacrosse stick, which is about two and a half feet long. The stick used by defenders is approximately six feet long. Deschner, one of four team captains, is a midfielding specialist, a veteran player who participated in Luers club lacrosse a year ago. Chase Meeks (12), Tyler Freeland (11), and Neil Bansal (Canterbury student) also played on the Luers squad.

The past few weeks have been very strenuous for the team. Many of the players have never played lacrosse before, and the team's first year will prove difficult.

"We have an amazing amount of young talent; young yet unrefined," Brandon Landes (11) said. "Hopefully, under the leadership from our amazing captains, we'll only grow."

Unfortunately, the team will be unable to participate in the postseason. A rule prohibits first year teams from participating in the tournament, so Coach Steve Collie looks to build up the team this year. He hopes the team will gain experience while still striving to win games. A lot has been accomplished so far.

"We get things done like it's something to do." Landes said.

Overall, the confidence and enthusiasm of the team are its greatest strengths.

"I score points like it's nobody's business. Heck, I score points like itis going out of style. So basically, I score a lot." Deschner said.

The teamís first two games are this Sunday at the fields behind the Chapel. They are at 11 o'clock and 3 o'clock. The games are free and Homestead students are welcome to attend.

photoben deschner

» Brandon Landes and Kirk Brown practice for an upcoming game

Upcoming Games:
Pike (H) March 19
Heritage (H) March19
Bloomington (H) April 16
Concord (A) April 16
Bishop Chatard (H) April 23

Boys basketball. 2B • JV dance team. 3B • Improving School Dances. 5A • Annexation. 6A •
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intramural basketball

Fan favorite intramural basketball takes role of local March Madness with a twenty-team tournament held at the Y

Lee Farnsworth
Business Manager

Hype.

Intramural basketball is all about hype. It's about trash talking, preseason predictions, sneaky steals, bombastic blocks, sweet fadeaway Js, and more than anything, it's about the tournament.

With a record number of twenty teams competing this year in intramural basketball, every day of the week brings two games - two hyped up games because every team wants a piece of that glory, or maybe legend, depending on the perspective.

It's easy to see which four teams play each day; their brightly colored Y shirts are displayed in the hallways at school because nearly every person in the league sports the look on game day.

The league is held at the Jorgenson branch of the YMCA. Twenty teams in all have been competing for the past seven weeks against one another. The games have eight-minute quarters with a running clock, and each member of the teams of around eight plays equal time. There are no coaches in the league; it is simply a group of kids playing basketball together. After playing their seven regular season games, the teams are seeded and placed into a tournament based on their record.

The word intramural literally means "within the walls." It has come to be associated with friendly competition between students at a particular school. At Homestead, intramural basketball is a way for students to enjoy the game without the pressures or commitments that come along with being on the high school team.

"I just wanted to have a good time and enjoy the game with my friends," Nick Arnold (9) said.

Although Arnold's team is struggling, he still finds the game enjoyable. Intramurals is more about having fun, not necessarily winning every game.

"Even though my team is far from the best, I still find it enjoyable to go out and compete each week," Arnold said. "It's just fun to play."

Nevertheless, there is some element of serious competition associated with the game. The league does have many good players and teams. One may expect sloppy ball handling and poor passing from an intramural league; however, some teams have very good players. In addition to having flashy passers and dribblers, the teams include some very skilled shooters as well. While trying to make no mistakes, the teams are trying to compete and win, but it is a different kind of competition. Fierce rivalries can also develop between teams. The program also encourages enthusiasm in its participants.

With the regular season of the intramurals now over, the participants anxiously await their tournament match ups. Some students have even made their own mock brackets in order to predict first and second round opponents.

"I'm not sure who my team is going to face in the first round," said Brandon Chaffee (9) of the team Downtown Deli, "but our record is average, so I hope that it's a team we can beat."

Because the students are able to create their own names for their teams, many have unusual names. Among them are the Tummy Squeakers, The King Ballers, Downtown Deli, and The Golden Gods. It has almost come to the point where the search for an original name has become a competition in and of itself.

In the end, the league has given many students from Homestead a chance to play a game they enjoy in an atmosphere that is conducive to sportsmanship and fun.

The participants are able to compete and have fun at the same time. This is really the purpose of intramural sports: to give students a chance to participate. As is evidenced by the number of participants as well as by their enthusiasm, the intramural basketball program is greatly appreciated by those not on Homestead's basketball team and the fans who support intramural players.

The Tummy Squeakers' Travis McGahee (11) shoots a running jumper in their playoff game against the Jazzy Jumpers. Squeak won the game on a last second layup by Shane Connolly (12).

photos/jack rozman

Tourney Time

All twenty teams participate in the tournament to crown the league champion. Seeds are listed at the right. The championship game will be held March 21 at 2:45 at the Y.

1. Tummy Squeakers
2. Blouses
3. Regulators
4. Shirts
5. Jazzy Jumpers
6. Real Spartans
7. Green Beaners
8. Bench Warmers
9. Golden Gods
10. Connexion
11. PJ [CRLD] JP
12. Downtown Deli
13. King Ballers
14. Underrated
15. Black Knights
16. Team 20
17. B-Unit
18. Rough Riders
19. Goodies
20. Flow

Josh Walker (11) of the Real Spartans attempts to dribble past Jared Lance (12). The Real Spartans had the #6 seed in the tournament but were ousted early by the Blouses.

Jared Lance (12) propels the Blouses to an 89-55 victory against the Real Spartans with a runner in the middle of the lane.

Varsity Dance.1B • Gymnastics.1B • Boys Basketball.2B • JV Dance.3B • Intramurals.4B
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GarageBand

Larry Buchanan
Associate Surplus Editor

We try to meet once a week in my basement (a garage works too). Each of us bringing their guitar and Ryan bringing a bass he borrows from his brother and a borrowed keyboard that doesn't sound very good. Of course I'm speaking of the elements that make up my band, "Backseat Driver".

On the whole, our band isn't that great, but we're improving. Up until a week ago we couldn't even play a full song. The point is we have fun. None of us really remember where the idea for this band came from, but we all know we wanted to start one. When I say "we", I'm speaking of Ryan Cicero (10), Patrick Mullen (10), Kevin Nowak (10), and myself, Larry Buchanan (10). We all love music, and love trying to make music. Kevin is a pretty good guitarist. He is really the only one with any talent whatsoever. Ryan and I are decent on guitar, and when we need a bass, I play that. Pat is pretty good on keyboard; he can learn whatever we need him too. So, with a little work and practice we'll be on our way.

Kevin is our main guitar player. He sings too, but only because he is the only one who can sing and play at the same time. Ryan plays "supporting guitar". He kind of builds off of what Kevin plays. He is an alright guitarist, but he keeps practice alive with his "witty comments" and enthusiasm. And then there's Patrick Mullen. Mullen is the funny one in the group. He plays the keyboard, and if we had drums, he would probably play those too. He always keeps practice interesting. But, really, my point in writing this article isn't to talk about my own band, it is to encourage anyone to start one, even if you're not that good.

Our band is getting better, and that will come with practice, but you will have so much fun starting one. Half of our practices are trying to figure out what to play and the other half is trying to play it. You can write your own stuff or play someone else's; both are good ways to start. We have a lot of bits and pieces of songs and many covers that we thought would just be fun to do. The trick is getting a whole song down.

Starting a band is also a good way to meet girls. Hey, whatever works, right? Chicks dig the guys who can play and even if you're not that good, or can't play, just say you're in a band; that's major bonus points. To tell you the truth, I only picked up a guitar because my girlfriend told me I would look hot playing it. It was probably the best thing she ever said to me; just kidding.

But, anyway, I started playing on a guitar that had a bridge that was ready to snap off, a missing bottom string, and it would never say in tune. I have some new things to practice on, and I'm improving. Any one can learn to play an instrument, and if you have nothing to do which seems to be common because everyone is always complaining about Fort "lame," Indiana, then start a band; it's something to do. Maybe it will end up good and you'll catch a gig somewhere. Almost everyone has been to a coffee shop gig where a few bands play, anyone can do it. Pick a few simple songs, learn the basics to them, and then add your own simple twists. Even if it means drumming on a weight bench, using your dad's old acoustic with 4 strings, and a keyboard your brother got for Christmas three years ago.

photos/jack rozman

Backseat Driver, comprised of Patrick Mullen (10), Ryan Cicero (10), Kevin Nowak (10), and Larry Buchanan (10), is pictured above. The band practices about once a week.

Kevin Nowak

Larry Buchanan

Ryan Cicero

Patrick Mullen

backseat driver

surplus

surplus issue 5 march 23, 2005
volume 1

MARCH MADNESS

Tyler Keena
Writer

March has finally arrived, and so has the greatest time of the year. No, I'm not talking about green grass, blooming flowers, and warmer temperatures. I'm talking about March Madness.

Every March, people crowd around their televisions for Selection Sunday, the day when the selection committee picks the 65-team field that will play in the NCAA post-season tournament. March is the only time of year when the most popular show on television on a Sunday night involves Clark Kellogg.

When the brackets are finally released to the general public on Sunday evening, the bracket is by far the most popular topic of conversation in schools and offices nationwide. No more talk of the War in Iraq, or President Bush's plan to privatize Social Security. Politics and other news take a backseat to the excitement of college basketball for nearly a whole month. Tournament betting pools are extremely popular during March, as people of all ages and genders attempt to do the impossible – fill out a perfect bracket. The tournament is extremely unpredictable and almost anything can, and will, happen every year. But don't bet on any sixteenth seed victories.

The unpredictability is what makes March Madness such an incredible time of year. Both teams actually try their hardest on defense and offense, unlike the NBA playoffs, where scores under 100 points are a rarity. March Madness even rivals the NFL playoffs and the Super Bowl in popularity. Unlike football, in March Madness, there are games being played almost every day of the week, and there are probably about thirty teams with a realistic chance of making it to the Final Four. After all, in 2002, the Indiana Hoosiers made it to the championship under the direction of the much-criticized Mike Davis. If Davis's Hoosiers can do it, then teams like Minnesota, Texas Tech, Pacific, and West Virginia certainly should not be counted out in the 2005 tournament.

> "...the Illini (Illinois) have the grit, composure and poise to beat the Tar Heels (North Carolina) in St. Louis April 4."
>
> Sports Illustrated

March Madness is also a time of underdogs and upsets. People like Christian Laettner and Bryce Drew have gained nationwide fame and etched their names into the college basketball history books with their game-winning shots. In 1998, Drew hit an off-balance three point shot as time expired to give Valparaiso a one-point victory over Mississippi. Without this shot, Bryce Drew would be just like every other talented guard who played college basketball. Some make it to the NBA eventually, but most never reach the superstardom that Bryce Drew has for one shot that propelled his team to an upset in the NCAA tournament.

"Bryce Drew would just be garbage if he didn't make that shot," Ryan Chenoweth (12) said. "Does anybody know anything else about him besides that shot?"

Every year people wonder which twelve seeds can upset the five seeds. Who will be a this year's Cinderella and make it to the Sweet Sixteen? That's the beauty – it can't be predicted.

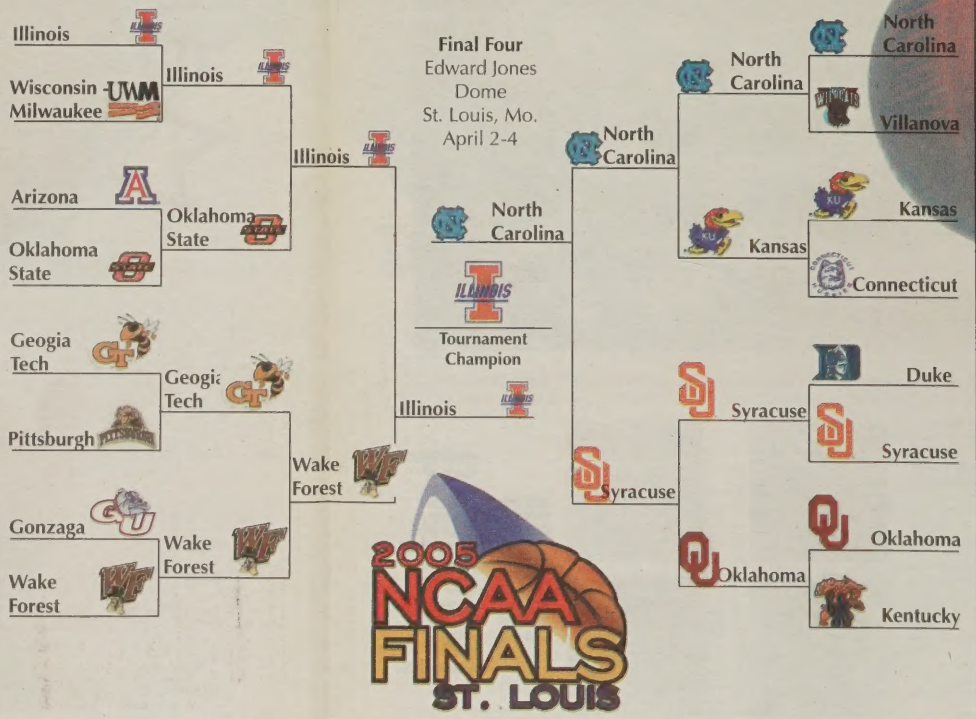
Several years ago, Gonzaga emerged from years of mediocrity with a string of upsets two years in a row. These upsets have propelled Gonzage from a perennial Cinderella team to a perennial powerhouse and a three-seed in the NCAA tournament.

Also during the tournament, ridiculous bets are made because many people do not give the underdog a chance. When the seventh seed Indiana Hoosiers squeaked out a victory over the top-seeded and tournament favorite Duke Blue Devils in 2002, many brackets were busted, and many bets were lost.

"I'll never forget shaving Evan Childers's head and watching him do an Irish jig to the tune of the piano to follow through on his bet after that game," Ryan Rahrig (12) said. "Nobody thought [the Hoosiers] had a chance, not even a die-hard IU fan like Ev."

This year's bracket is particularly interesting, as it seems there is more parity among tournament teams than in previous years. There is no clear-cut favorite to win the tournament, and there are several teams in each 16-team regions that are capable of winning the tournament. Expect many upsets, you're Final Four picks to lose before the Elite Eight, and expect to see some shaven heads. But that's the beauty of it all.

Sports Illustrated's picks for the final games



NCAA Tournament: Interesting Info (as of 3.17.2005)

Iowa is now 0-4 when playing in the state of Indiana.

Utah is now 6-0 when playing in the state of Arizona.

Texas-El Paso is now 0-3 on Thursdays.

Montana is now 0-5 on Thursdays.

Intramural Basketall: Homestead's March Madness

photojack fozman

Kevin Bultemeier (10) of the Jazzy Jumpers tries to drive by Joel Achenbach (11) of the Tummy Squeakers in the quarterfinals of Homestead High School/Jorgensen YMCA intramural basketball tournament. The Tummy Squeakers, the only undefeated team in the regular season, squeaked out a two-point victory in the game to advance to the semifinals. (See entire story on page 4B of the Spartana)

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photo:zach hetrick

Fallen Spartan

Sophomore Zach Gentry dies in tragic car accident; family and school mourn his loss

Josh Zurawski
Co-Editor in Chief

On a cold, rainy, not-so-Good Friday - like the kind you see in a Lifetime Movie Marathon - a father, a girlfriend, a couple of best friends, a principal, a few counselors, and more buddies than can be mentioned met in Student Services to talk about one person: Zachary James Gentry. Only 21 hours earlier, Gentry was driving Joey Debolt (9) home from school when he overcorrected and rolled his Explorer into a wooded area, leaving him dead when paramedics arrived.

And in that instant, a family lost its middle son. Zach is survived by his parents, John and Susan Gentry; brother, Josh (2002 graduate); sisters Stephanie (1998 graduate), Katelyn (9), Alyssa, and Madison; maternal grandmother, Ruth Crippes; and paternal grandparents, William and Mina Lou Gentry.

And in that instant, a girl lost her boyfriend. "He was an amazing boyfriend; he always took care of me," Leah Fournier (9) said. "Our Thursday OC dates are something I'll always remember."

And in that instant, a countless number of people lost a good friend.

"I knew Zach for five good years," said Sam Van Horn (10). "Every weekend Joey [Debolt], Jordan [Bunn], Zach and I would hang out. I was grounded the last month and Zach was going to throw a rock at my window at midnight and sneak me out and we were going to drive around. Just drive. That was the plan the weekend of the accident."

And in that instant, the baseball team, soccer team, and student publications lost a promising prospect.

"This was my first year coaching him - he didn't try out last year because of a travel soccer team," varsity coach Keith Potter said. "All the players were glad he came out this year because he was an outstanding hitter and had a good arm - but also because most of them were friends with him. He had a good attitude and was a hard worker, so he definitely had a good chance at varsity next year."

The baseball team will have Gentry's initials stitched into their hats. There will be a moment of silence before the first JV and varsity game. With support from John Gentry, Zach's father, Jack Rozman (10) will fill the open spot on the JV team. The soccer team plans to wear patches on their uniforms next year.

And in that instant, the community was changed forever, because the death of a sixteen year old hits so close to home - especially when the kid had such a positive influence and had touched so many people.

"He was an easy going guy," said Jordan Bunn (10). "He always put everyone else first. He would go to a movie that you wanted to even if he had no interest in seeing it. He always wanted to make other people happy."

> "Zach lived life like he played poker - he always had to see the flop."
> Sam Van Horn

Known for having his own style, Zach had a unique way of life unlike anyone else's: full of curiosity and zest.

"Zach lived life like he played poker - he always had to see the flop," said Van Horn. "He was always taking risks, always curious to see the next card so he could make a move."

Back in a deserted Homestead, on that cold, rainy, not-so-Good Friday, now just outside Student Services, in a half-lit hallway, a six-foot-two, two hundred and twenty pound teen cries uncontrollably because he just lost his teammate. A girl laughs through her tears as she tells the group, "Zach was my first kiss." Another one, in the same manner as the first, asks, "Did he really kiss like a fish?"

However he kissed, it would have been Zach Gentry's way of kissing - like no one else's.

Administration cancels 'Bat Boy: the Musical'

'Godspell' selected as new play for spring performance

Suhasini Bhargava
Co-Editor in Chief

Post auditions and rehearsals, Principal Dianne Moake announced to drama director Ed Koczergo that "Bat Boy: the Musical" would not be performed by the school's drama department because of inappropriate content including rape, drug use, and copulation by animals. This incident was the first time in Koczergo's career at this high school that a drama production had been cancelled.

"There has never been an approval or disapproval policy," Koczergo said. "I have selected the season of plays during the summer and nothing has ever been questioned. Everybody knows about [the plays] because it's in the parent newsletter."

The involvement of the administration in canceling the play precipitated on March 4 when assistant principal Jennifer Bay requested to read a copy of the script. Four days later, the drama director and the assistant principal met to discuss how certain scenes were going to be portrayed.

"I had a short meeting with Mrs. Bay and I explained how we were going to handle certain issues," Koczergo said. "There is a scene with a bong and we were obviously not going to have a bong on stage. The scene where the animals copulate was going to be changed to a puppet show."

Additionally, the revelation about Bat Boy's origin was going to be demonstrated through dialogue and through shadows cast on a screen. The motif would have resembled that of a 1950s horror movie. This particular scene dealt with what modern society defines as "date rape."

"I think [rape] is a crucial issue that needs to be discussed," Koczergo said. "I was going to invite representatives [from organizations such as NAND and SADD] after each performance to stay and discuss what they saw. I saw it as a wonderful educational opportunity."

Although Moake was aware of the musical's synopsis, she did not read the script until the cast for "Bat Boy" had been selected and rehearsals had begun.

"I had a synopsis but that was the only thing I had," Moake said. "Some comments had been made—sometimes things bring up a red flag—and so I decided to read the script."

On March 11 when the drama director met with Bay and Moake, he asked for a list of changes to be submitted to him so that the musical could be altered to suit the high school stage.

"On March 11, I was told I would be given changes by the morning of March 15," Koczergo said. "By 1:30 p.m. on Tuesday [March 15], the play had been pulled."

Upon hearing that "Bat Boy" had been cancelled, Koczergo expressed his desire to resign as drama director and auditorium supervisor.

"The moment she told me [that 'Bat Boy' was being pulled], my response was 'I will resign as drama director and auditorium supervisor,'" Koczergo said. "Through my union representative I was told that they would not accept my resignation. If I didn't bring in a play by Friday the 18th, it would be called insubordination and I would be fired."

A group of students from the cast of "Bat Boy" submitted changes in the musical to the administration; however, their efforts were in vain.

"I didn't feel the changes took care of all the issues," Moake said.

Koczergo was also told to select and direct a new musical. On March 18, Koczergo submitted the title of another musical, which was also deemed inappropriate by the administration. During a meeting on Monday, March 21, Moake decided that "Little Shop of Horrors" was the musical of choice for this high school's stage. The rights for this production were pursued by Moake and Superintendent Dr. Brian Smith.

"Right now we are trying to finalize whether we get the rights to "Little Shop of Horrors," Moake said on March 28. "There is a very tight timeline and we don't have enough time."

Later on Monday, March 28, Koczergo suggested that the musical "Godspell" be performed by the Homestead drama department. The production of this musical was approved by the administration.

"I got the rights to 'Godspell' because logistically, it would have been impossible to do 'Little Shop of Horrors' in the time we had," Koczergo said. "I met with the cast from 'Bat Boy' and most of the cast is in 'Godspell.' We will be working hard to produce this musical."

The cast members will rehearse everyday for the production of "Godspell." The spring musical will be held on May 6 and 7. The following week, the musical will be performed on May 13 and 14 in the school auditorium.

see page 5A for opinions

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Surplus
See next issue of *the Spartana* for issue 6 of the *Surplus*. This next issue will feature a movie review, a food review, and a music review.

In loving memory of...

Zachary James Gentry

12.14.1988 - 3.24.2005

Students respond to the tragic death of Zachary Gentry, share their thoughts and memories of his life

Zach. What a great name that is. Thinking of how bright the room would get when he smiled, remembering our talks even though they lasted only a little while. Zach. What a **precious** name, for such a precious soul, that **will *never* be forgotten** now that his life has taken its toll. Zach, we love you dearly, till death to us part, and your **spirit will remain forever** and always deep within all our hearts. L.O.F. (**Live on forever**).Hillary McBride

Zach, Never forget the time at Pine Lake with the BIG THREE. **Gone but *not* forgotten**.Kyle Sherer

I had fifth period U.S. History with Zach. He was a great person I wish I could have known him a lot better. Zach will always be remembered and **truly missed**.Angeline Chartier

Zach, I'm going to miss you. I have so many memories of us playing baseball together. You we're an **awesome team mate**.Ryan Cicero

Zach was **a person many people looked up to**. I can never remember a time that I saw Zach without a smile on his face. His smile seemed to brighten up even the worst day at school, like test days. Whether it was in class, in the halls, or just on the baseball field, Zach had a positive attitude about everything. I never had the opportunity to play on the same baseball team as Zach, but I sure do remember playing against him. He always knew I didn't like the curve ball, so whenever I came up to the plate, he would call the catcher up to him, and he would whisper, "Here comes the curve ball." Then he would look at me on his way back to the mound and smile. I knew what was coming, but every time I struck out. The next day we would see each other in the hallway, and when I would come up to him he would have a big **smile on his face**, and laugh making me laugh right along just because he got me once again with the curve ball. I would always tell him, "I'll hit it next time!" He would laugh and say, "OK!" I am going to miss those curve balls, and the conversation he had just about every time I came up to the plate. I'm going to miss the laughs in the halls we had after he struck me out. Zach was a really great guy, and a **fun person to be around**! I'm really going to miss him!Tarik Pellerin

God gave **you style and** gave **you grace**. God put a **smile on your face**. That smile was contagious. Fifth period adventures won't ever be the same.Josh Zurawski

Zach was the best friend everyone **should** have. He was perfect; **honest**, funny, loyal, always happy, and very **strong in his faith**. It's not going to be the same without him; from seeing his smile for 2 seconds, or having a long, in depth conversation with him. I'm going to miss him.Lindsay Baker

I am so sorry about your loss, to Kate Gentry and the Gentry family. Your friend.Shane Reece

Zach was a **great person**. He was a **funny** kid and everyone loved being around him. He was a great soccer player.

Zach was **one of the coolest** people I knew. Me, Zach, and Joe would hang out almost every weekend. We actually were going to hang out the weekend of the accident. All three of us would play poker a lot together. Zach would always take me and Joe's money. I remember after lunch he would buy cinnamon Mentos every day. He would always give me a couple of them. Me and Zach were in the same gym class. Me and Zach were partners in everything. I loved playing tennis with him. **I miss Zach**. He was a great friend and **I will never** forget about him.Mickyle Eshelman

Zach was a great person. He was a funny kid and **everyone loved being around him.** He was a great soccer player.

He was always sweet, crazy, **laughing ALL the time**, quiet some of the time, and he was always fun to be around.

As everyone knows, Zach Gentry was nice, funny, down-to-earth, and just a **one of a kind guy**.

He was a great friend, and will be greatly missed.

He has **touched many people's lives**, may his spirit live on forever...Mary Salamone

Zach was **a bright kid**. Many people were his friend. I was glad to be his friend. English class was full of laughs and good times.

He was a very athletic kid and participated in many things at Homestead. Soccer holds the best memories.

There was always a little competition between us in the season. Soccer won't be the same without you. Everyone will remember the tragic day of 3.24.05.

I miss you Zach, man. You will live on in our hearts forever. Z-Gent **#5** .Danny Strawbridge

Zach, man I don't know what to say, but I truly believe you are **with God now**, smiling down on us.

In the short amount of time that I knew Zach Gentry, I had gotten to know him **very well**. He had been taking me home on the weekends and we ran out of interesting things to tell each other about. I never would have thought that the "Thank you" for taking me home would be the last words I said to him. My heart goes out to any of Zach's friends.

Zach, you and Joey were the two funniest people I have met when you were together. You brought a smile to everyone and were **never negative** or mean.

You will be missed greatly and ***I love you***, buddy. I just remember the times with Joe going to the tree and talking. I will miss those times and cherish them forever.Kyle Newcomb

Zach, you were a great friend and an awesome person. **We will miss you tremendously**. Our thoughts and prayers go out to you and your family. Love, Megan Miller

Zach Gentry was a **wonderful person**. Zach is missed by many. Never to be forgotten in our hearts and minds. Zenna Alcoser and Jessica Elder

I remember way back in 6th grade, Zach and I were in the same homeroom. I came in late and it was the day our class was competing for the spelling bee winner to move on to the finals. We knew each other pretty well up to freshman year, because of school and church. Zach will truly be **missed forever**. My sympathy to the Gentry's.

Zach was a **great guy**, every time I saw him he was **smiling**. I didn't know him all that long, but I'm glad I did get to meet him and have a couple of laughs. Joey, you're one of my good friends and I just don't know what I would have done without you. I love you with all of my heart, stay strong, Joey. We all love and care about you. My love and prayers are with the Gentrys and DeBolts. **XOXO**

Zach, aka. "Love Supreme," what am I going to do without you? Your **smile made my day** so much better. I love you so much. You will forever be in my heart, my lil Zachy. Love Always, Your Lil Taykay

Zach Gentry Tribute. 2A • Bat Boy Cancellation. 5A • Prayer in School. 6A • College visits. 8A

you are here ▲

Global Briefs

Pope Update

The Pope underwent a tracheotomy on February 24 and still has a tube inserted in his windpipe to help him breathe. But now, in order to boost the Pope's calorie intake, he is being fed through a nasal tube, the Vatican said on Wednesday. Pope John Paul II suffers from a number of crippling diseases, including hip and knee disorders, as well as Parkinson's Disease. Parkinson's has severely affected the Pope's ability to speak.

Johnnie Cochran Dies

Johnnie Cochran died in his home at the age of 67 earlier this week. Cochran had been suffering from a brain tumor for several years. The tumor was deemed inoperable. Cochran is best known for successfully defending OJ Simpson in his high-profile murder case that riveted most of the nation for most of 1995. Cochran had been in a hospice and died with his family nearby. Simpson had last seen Cochran at a basketball game in Los Angeles a few months prior to Cochran's death.

First Lady

First lady Laura Bush set out Tuesday for a quick visit to Afghanistan, undertaking a trip to a war-torn country where American forces are still battling a stubborn Taliban-led insurgency.

Mrs. Bush has wanted to visit Afghanistan for a couple of years but delayed the journey, mostly because of security concerns. Her trip was kept secret until just before she left from Andrews Air Force Base near Washington.

She arrived in Kabul at midday Wednesday and spent about five hours on the ground

New Study: Diet

According to a new government study, three servings of whole grains each day will reduce your risk of heart disease and type 2 diabetes. It doesn't have to be bread. Brown or wild rice, oatmeal, cold cereal flakes, popcorn -- without the salt and butter -- and even trail mix will do.

Of all the new advice in the government's new dietary guidelines, eating enough whole grains may prove to be the easiest.

Shuttle Discovery

NASA passed a significant milestone in its two-year quest to return the shuttle fleet to flight when shuttle Discovery left its processing hangar early Tuesday and made a quarter-mile journey to the assembly building.

The move was the first tangible sign that NASA is beyond focusing on vehicle improvements after the 2003 Columbia space shuttle disaster and has turned its attention to something it has done 113 times already: preparing a space shuttle for launch.

Indonesian Earthquake

Three months after catastrophic tsunamis killed more than 170,000 people, luck helped spare Indonesia and the Indian Ocean region from widespread devastation when another massive earthquake struck on Monday. Indonesian officials report 330 people are dead on the islands of Nias and Simeulue off Sumatra from Monday's quake, which was centered 60 miles (97 kilometers) south on the same fault line as the December 26 earthquake.

The latest quake was smaller than the December one that triggered the tsunamis, and the Earth ruptured in a different direction.

Iraqi Insurgents

Iraqi insurgents ambushed an American military convoy in daylight outside of Baghdad on Sunday, igniting a battle that left 24 attackers dead and 7 wounded, American officials said. The unusually bold assault appeared to be the largest by insurgents against an American target since the January 30 elections.

Tennis

Roger Federer (SWI-1) once again won the Pacific Life open with a 6-4, 6-4, 6-2, win over Lleyton Hewitt (AUS-2). This is Federer's seventh consecutive win over Hewitt, and Federer's 42-1 in finals since last year's Olympics. Kim Clijsters (UNS) won the Open on the women's side, defeating Lindsey Davenport (USA-1). Next up is the Nasdaq-100 tournament, where defending champion Andy Roddick (USA-3), along with the other top two seeds, will be competing.

briefspuja parikh

College Preview:

Colleges, technical schools provide information

Jim Katz
Writer

With all the hard work put in by students, the goal for most of them is to attend some other program beyond high school. This may include some sort of college, technical school, or service in the armed forces. Regardless of a student's goals after high school, the spring college fair had something for everyone.

Held on Wednesday March 23rd, in the cafeteria, the school sponsored the colleges, which featured more than 90 institutions, displaying a variety of programs and opportunities for student after high school.

The colleges represented a wide array of areas of the country for students to choose from. The schools came from ten different states, including Indiana, Ohio, Michigan, Illinois, Kentucky, Wisconsin, Missouri, New York, Massachusetts, and Rhode Island.

There were also many options given in terms of types of colleges to choose from. Large public universities such as Indiana University, Michigan State University, and Purdue University are always popular. There are also many other types of four-year college programs represented, including liberal arts schools and private colleges. These smaller and more selective institutions include Denison College, DePauw University, Earlham College, and Kenyon College.

There were also representatives from several institutions that have alternative programs to the typical collegiate experience. Technical schools were well represented, with ITT Tech, IVY Tech State College, and Ohio Technical College. These programs allow students to continue their education in a more practical and technical manner, and those programs were displayed as a viable option for many students.

Also represented were several non-collegiate groups that were also present at the fair. These included representation from both the ACT and the College Board, who are responsible for the SAT. Both of these tests are a major part of most students' application for many the programs display at the fair.

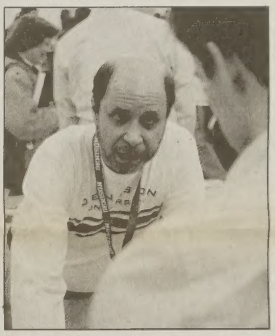
There were also three groups who were there strictly to talk about the different strategies to deal with the expenses involved with college. These included Bank One, College Fund Division, and Northwestern Mutual Financial.

Finally, there were representatives from three branches of the United States armed forces, which is an option many students find the best solution to their post-high school dilemma. The branches represented included the Army, the Coast Guard, and the Marines.

During the course of the event there were many door prizes raffled off, including variety of school spirit items, including hats, tee shirts, and stickers along with several scholarships of a variety of sizes.

Due to the multitude of programs and offers available at the fair, and the successful turnout at the college fair, the school plans to hold the event again next year. Representative were kept busy throughout the whole event.

Many high school students can often have difficulty choosing what to do once they leave their high school years. Students could begin to solves these issues with their attendance of the spring college fair, which displayed many different options, including many four-year schools, technical schools, the armed forces, and other groups, leaving the students with the ability to make more informed decisions about their future beyond high school.



» Top: Social studies teacher Jim Schmidt talks to a student about Dennison College. Left: Justin Bruce (12) looks at a list of college with his mom.

photoszach hetrick

» Kailly Fisher (11) talks to a college representative about admissions and campus life.

Winterguard competes at state; places tenth

Lee Farnsworth
Business Manager

As the sounds of songs from Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory and old candy commercials play, the winter guard members begin their "Candy Land" routine.

The winter guard is much like the color guard during band season, except for the former performs without a live band. The routine is done to music and includes flag routines as well as the use of rifle and saber.

The team, which is composed of a majority of freshmen, placed tenth at state competition this year despite an up and down season. Although, struggling at some points, the girls were one with their game when it counted and they managed to compete well at state.

"After have such an up and down season," said senior leader Madeline Shike, "it was very rewarding to go to state and then perform well. It was really fun to participate."

Shike was the only senior on the team this year, which speaks to the tremendous talent that the team has in its juniors and underclass members. Winter guard is truly a team sport, perhaps to a greater degree than other activities. In another sport, if one member of the team performs poorly, the rest of the members of the team can overcome that one player's lack of production in most cases. Conversely, if one member of the guard drops a flag or a rifle, it hurts the entire team and the rest of the members might not be able to recover from one mistake. Perhaps this is the reason why the team is so close.

The team traveled together on the morning of March 19 to state competition and squeezed in a quick practice before competing later that day. The team then went out to dinner as a team after their competition.

"It was very rewarding to go to state, and especially as the only senior," said Shike "the entire team had a sense of accomplishment and pride."

The team's routine was choreographed by Shane Hapner. The routine was set to a Candy Land theme and even incorporated an element meant to resemble the board to the popular game. The theme suited the guard and allowed for an energetic and entertaining performance.

"He (Hapner) is just an amazing director; he is so brilliant with what he does," Shike said. "Everything he put together was just amazing. He really is a genius."

The girls of the winter guard can be proud of their season and performance at state. The guard battled through down times in the season, but managed to shine at state competition. And, with the high numbers of freshmen and sophomores, the organization can look forward to years of excellence. The season was surely sweet for the girls of the Homestead winter guard.

photokara wall

» Amanda Junk (11) performs at the Winterguard state competition. Winterguard placed tenth at the event, and it was held on March 19.

Students urged to donate blood; student government sponsors event

Austin Hetrick
Writer

Student government sponsored a blood drive on Thursday, March 31. The drive was in cooperation with the American Red Cross and took place between 8:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. Interested donors were required to be at least 17 year old, be in good health, and weigh over 110 pounds; donors were also asked to bring an ID. Students and teachers were encouraged to refer to the student government representative table during lunch to schedule a blood donation appointment.

This year, the annual blood drive was deemed "Giving Blood: The Road Less Traveled;" posters throughout the building displayed information on the event. Student government leaders of this program were Shane Connolly (12) and Ryan Cicero (10). The goal for this year's effort was 70 units, or pints of blood. The average donor gives slightly less than one pint, and can donate that much every two months.

Student government representatives helped the Red Cross employees during the drive day. They also spoke during the lunch periods regarding who could give blood.

The student government has sponsored drives for the past six years and this year's goal of 70 units of blood is slightly larger than last years.

Blood is donated in Allen County on a regular basis at the Red Cross Station and at area hospitals, but according to the Red Cross, barely five percent of eligible adults donate blood. The blood that is donated nationally saves four-and-a-half million lives a year, and is used every three seconds. The Red Cross also reports that one out of every ten people entering one of the 5,000 nationally recognized hospitals needs blood.

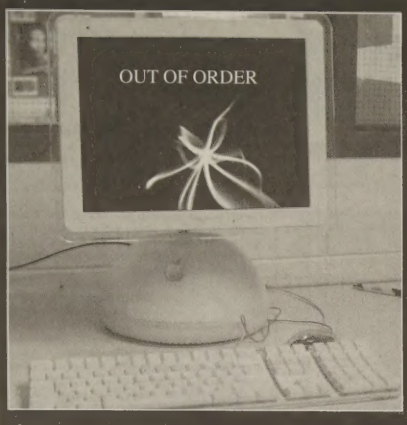
The blood that was donated from students and teachers was used for various purposes. Whole blood, according to the Red Cross's website, has five primary components (although it is made up of 200 individual parts.) These include: red blood cells, platelets, plasma, and cryoprecipitate, and white blood cells. These blood types are used for "hemophilia, open heart surgery, newborn treatment, chemotherapy, burns, and in massive transfusions."

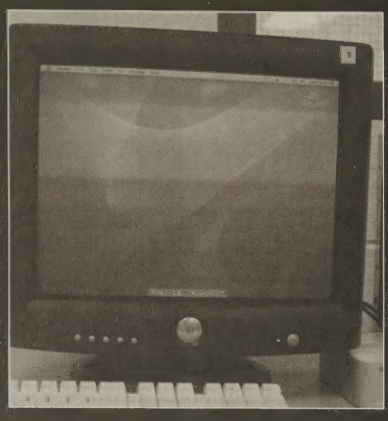
Certain limitations exist on the storage of blood that causes the need for constant donations. "Platelets must be used within 5 days of donation. Red blood cells may be stored under refrigeration for a maximum of 42 days. Frozen red blood cells can last up to 10 years, but because of the high cost involved, only a small portion of the blood supply can be frozen. Plasma is generally frozen and must be used within one year." These limitations hinder the storage of blood and create the need for daily donations.

Blood needed in the United States generally totals fourteen million units of whole blood for nearly five million patients. That total averages out to some 38,000 units of blood used per year, with an average yearly increase of six percent.

Homestead's blood drive is a tradition of helping others, and with this year's increased goal, the help provided by students was even greater.

"Any blood drive is an integral part of aiding a community in need," according to a statement by the Red Cross. Homestead's blood drive may be only a small portion of the blood needed even in Allen County, but the individual donates blood, and even high school students can make a big difference.





PCs better computers in comparison to Macs

PCs provide better function and more utility; Apples have better appearance

Neil Shah
Writer

The choice between Macintosh and PC computers has been debated since both were released on the market. Although the choice ultimately rests on preference, one type of computer is more suitable for the majority of computer users. This computer has become more prevalent, and it is important to understand why it has become the standard. As the result of brilliant marketing strategies and business plans of multiple companies, the PC has come to dominate Apple Computer's Macintosh computer and is also the better choice between the two.

A number of companies that have implemented successful business plans have driven the PC to become the industry standard. First, the International Business Machines Corporation (IBM) introduced the IBM PC in the early 1980s. As it grew popular, computer companies Microsoft and Intel jumped on the bandwagon and drove the PC to even greater popularity. The two computer companies became monopoly suppliers to IBM, as Microsoft provided IBM the Windows operating system and Intel provided it the microprocessor – the two fundamental elements of a computer. The integration of these two incredibly powerful products in the same computer fueled the PC's growth and established it as the dominant computer. Later, a company called Dell Incorporated further reinforced the PC's dominance of the computer market as its business model, which focuses on selling computers directly to consumers through the elimination of the "middle man" (like retailers), proved immensely successful and consumers bought more PCs.

One reason consumers should, and obviously do, choose PC type computers is simply because they have become the standard. A vast number of popular programs are programmed to function optimally on PCs rather than Macs. An obvious example is Microsoft's own software – the Microsoft Office suite. This powerful bundle of office software easily dominates the business world, as the vast majority of company employees send e-mail using Microsoft Outlook, prepare presentations using Microsoft PowerPoint, and control their databases using Microsoft Access. Our own school even has two classes dedicated to teaching how to use the Microsoft Office suite to its fullest – the Introductory and Advanced Computer Applications courses. Although the Office suite is now available for Macintosh computers, the Office suite completely integrates itself with the Windows operating system and thus functions better on Windows machines.

Apple's slogans and marketing strategies make readily apparent its surrender to the PC's dominance. For example, "Think different" and "Switch" are two of its most recently used slogans that demonstrate its acknowledgement that a consumer must resort to unconventional thinking to justify a purchase of its computers. Apple does, however, successfully market the Macintosh as a small niche-market computer that appeal to unconventional, "think outside the box" types of people. In addition, no one can contest the aesthetic value of a Macintosh computer over the typical PC, as both Macintosh computers and their operating system are more appealing to the eye than those of PCs. In terms of practicality, however, the PC remains dominant.

On top of aesthetic value, the Macintosh also has excellent media editing software. Many computer users whose first priority deals with video editing and graphics-intensive applications choose Macintosh over PC. Apple's program iMovie has been largely acclaimed as one of the best video editing applications on the market, with its ease of use and its extensive features. In addition, many Macs come standard with a FireWire port, while many PCs do not offer this port standard. The FireWire port allows for much faster data transmission between an external device and the computer and is perfectly suited for the transmission of digital media, which can be hundreds of megabytes in size.

Unless the only purpose of a computer to you is to decorate a desk at home and to check e-mail, a PC is the better choice. Associated substantially with Intel's microprocessors and Microsoft's software, the PC functions better for use with the ubiquitous Microsoft Office programs and other commonly used programs. The result of immensely successful business plans of massive computer companies, PCs have evolved into the industry standard and thus make sense as the computer of choice for the majority of users.

Neil Shah is a senior and works as a writer for the Spartana. *The views and opinions expressed in this column do not necessarily represent those of the* Spartana *or of its staff.*

Buying a Mac or a PC

Buy a PC because:

- *PCs are easier to upgrade compared to Macs*
- *PCs are much more widely used, ensuring that most external devices would be compatible with the computer.*

Buy a Mac because:

- *Macs are more reliable and do not have as many hardware clashes*
- *They are more versatile, because Macs can run other operating systems while windows cannot*
- *Surveys show that Macintosh owners usually have to spend less money and time maintaining their computer.*

information courtesy

Spring musical should not have been canceled

Public schools' responsibilities do not lie in teaching morals

Jim Katz
Writer

No reasons justify the cancellation of the spring musical "Bat Boy;" absolutely none. Our administration is so backwards in its thinking that I find it hard to comprehend that our school system is as successful as it is.

For those who do not know, "Bat Boy" was scheduled to be the spring musical, and was cancelled by the administration for "objectionable material."

The basic premise of the play is the following: a half-boy, half-bat, is found in a cave in West Virginia. The family of the local veterinarian takes him in and raises him to become a sophisticated and well-spoken young man. The townsfolk are, at the same time, having a problem with missing cattle, and choose to blame Bat Boy, now renamed Edgar, for their problems. In the end the town never fully accepts Bat Boy, and leads to a tragic ending for all involved.

In the most literal performance of the script, it contains a small drug reference, a scene of animals copulating, a scene of unwitting incest and a shadow play of rape.

The administration knew that drama director Ed Koczergo picked shows that might offend some people. He has done "Gypsy," which is about a stripper, "The Who's Tommy," which has a scene of child molestation, and this year's fall play "Jack the Ripper, the Monster of Whitechapel," which has three cast members worshipping Satan onstage. Regardless of my, or anyone else's personal feelings about the "objectionable material," the administration should be responsible enough to read the script prior to the show being cast. It is unfair to the cast and to Koczergo to wait until that late in the game to review a script and give its verdict.

I personally have no objection to any of the material in "Bat Boy." It is a thought-provoking piece with a strong moral message that is very applicable to high school students.

First of all, the drug reference, which was to consist of a small bong being onstage for all of ten seconds, was hardly objectionable. Furthermore, the scene was to be cut in Koczergo's production. If anyone believes that having such a small drug reference will encourage more students to experiment with drugs, they must not understand the extent of drug use at our school.

Secondly, the hype over the scene of animals "copulating" was over-exaggerated. In the original production, there was a great deal of explicit sexual actions, which our production was going to reduce to a reasonably innocent puppet show, even poking fun at the Spongebob Squarepants issue.

Finally, the most "controversial" scene was the rape and "violation" scene. In the scene, the man spills a pheromone on his female lab assistant, causing a hormonal attraction; thus, he unintentionally rapes her. Both characters had known each other well, and the woman explains later that it was not entirely rape; that there were some mitigating factors involved. Following the incident, the woman runs home, she is attacked by bats, and is "violated." If anyone would think about the believability, or lack there of, of the situation, they would realize it is a place where the audience must suspend disbelief and therefore realize that the "violation" exists not as a condoning of bestiality, but as a plot device to drive the story. I wish that people would think first and be offended second.

The school claims that certain scenes are "inappropriate," but when did it become the school's job to teach moral values to students? Is it not the job of the parents to raise their children in an environment which they feel will teach their children the values they hold dear? In a public school, such values should play no role in the educational process. It is the school's job to present information, raise issues, and then allow students and their families to decide what they should take from it. It does not benefit the educational process at all to censor material. I have discussed works of literature with controversial themes in my AP Literature class; yet, regardless of my, or anyone's personal feelings, we all benefit from the discussion. The same is true in theatre. It is there not only to entertain, but also is often is it there to make a point.

The tragedy of all of this is the lack of interest on the part of the administration in putting on a show with a message. The theme of "Bat Boy" is tolerance, and problems that come from not accepting people as they are. This message is especially important in high school. We all have our own "cliques" and people whom we consider "outcasts." "Bat Boy" sends a message of acceptance of these people, regardless of how they look or seem to act. What worries me most is the fact that future shows may face censorship before they are even offered to the public. As students and actors, we must promote theater as more than entertainment, but as a method of education and interaction between characters who exemplify the problems we face daily.

While at this point there is little I or anyone else can say to bring back "Bat Boy" to our stage, I can only hope that our administration will learn that controversy is not something that educators should fear, but rather something that should be embraced. Maybe someday we can all "Hold our Bat Boy."

Jim Katz is a junior and works as a writer for the Spartana. *The views and opinions expressed in this column do not necessarily represent those of the* Spartana *or of its staff.*

Students place appropriate amount of attention on March Madness

Joe Salisbury
Writer

With the month of March, students have a lot of activities going on. The spring sports are starting, the spring musical, the end of the third nine weeks, and, of course, March Madness. The men's college basketball tournament, taking place each year in March, has many students locked in and watching every game they possibly can. This year the 65 team tournament began on March 17, and continues until April 4th with the National Championship game held in St. Louis, Missouri.

One of the main reasons for the popularity of the tournament is the annual brackets and predictions that sports fans make. Anyone who wants is able to fill out a bracket with predictions for the winner of every game in the tournament. Even those who are not major sports fans still enjoy participating in the event. With these predictions, people are always rooting for one team or another, in hopes to successfully predict the games.

As a result, students around the school constantly want to know what is happening at the games that take place during the school day.

"During passing periods I will watch the games on the TV's and sometimes a cool teacher will play the game on a TV at the end of the period if we don't have anything else to do," said Charley Jorgensen (10). This is not an uncommon situation for students, including myself. As you walk through the commons, you will see numerous students sitting and catching the scores of the games during passing periods.

During the time the tournament, some teachers may feel that students need to still keep academics the focus. However students see it as a small break that they can take to relieve some of the stress from school.

"The NCAA tourney has not affected my school work as much. Over the last few days I concentrated more on the tournament than most things, but I don't believe that it has affected my school work," said Jorgensen. "I may have not done as nicely a job as usual, but I still got it done. However, I have realized that for many kids it has affected them even more. It may not necessarily be a positive thing academically, but it allows them to take a break, and allow their mind to focus on things other then school." I agree with this completely. March Madness allows students to think of something other than their load of homework. It makes their day more enjoyable and manageable.

> March Madness allows students to think of something other than their load of homework. It makes their day more enjoyable and manageable.

Another thing that some teachers may not approve of is the filling out of the brackets during class time. Lots of students are involved in betting pools with their friends and fill out brackets during class period to give to each other. Some teachers do not want the tournament to interrupt their class periods and other students learning opportunities. However, I do not think that most students are so caught up in the basketball that they cannot have an effective learning environment. Many of the teachers also participate in the brackets. One can often see the teachers turn their TVs on after school hours to keep up to date on what is happening with the games while they do after school activities.

"I think some students consider it important, but they still keep their school work in line," said Augi Dickson (10). In the end, most students thoroughly enjoy the NCAA tournament but do not let it completely take over their school and academics. They use it as a break to lighten up a bit during a tough part of the school year.

With all of the hard work that students put into their schoolwork, I think it is nice that there is something that they can use to relax a little bit and lessen the stress that many students face.

Joe's Predictions

- *Final Four: Illinois vs Louisville: After Illinois' incredible comeback against Arizona in the Elite Eight, they will continue their momentum and beat the Cardinals. North Carolina vs Michigan State:*
- *North Carolina will end Michigan State's tournament run. In the championship, North Carolina will win the game and the National Championship.*

Joe Salisbury is a sophomore and works as a writer for the Spartana. *The views and opinions expressed in this column do not necessarily represent those of the* Spartana *or of its staff.*

College fair. 3A • PCs vs. Apples 4A • Bat Boy: the controversy. 5A • Prayer in schools. 6A •

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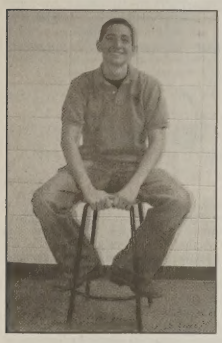
Controversy concerning 'Bat Boy: the Musical' elicits variety of opinions



Matt Anderson
Sports Editor

Throughout society unfortunate cases of various shock related ailments arise everyday: culture shock, hypovelmic shock, toxic shock syndrome, and septic shock are just a few of the possible shocking physical and mental diseases one can suffer from. In our case the administration has recently developed a severe case of script shock, a debilitating disease that is centered around the reading of a play/musical that forces the patient to lose any long-term sight, and abandon trust in the leaders and participants of the musical completely.

When the principal read the "Bat Boy" script for the first time this year-which just so happened to be after the show had been cast and had started practicing-the play was already headed to the guillotine. Reading an unedited original version, Moake had a right to be shocked by the content and protest to the play being done at the high school level, if there had been any intention was to perform the play as written.

The problem though is that the cast had already begun making changes and altering words within the play to make the script more family acceptable, but at the same time keep the idea of acceptance strong within the storyline. Unfortunately, it was too late. The script shock had already sunk into the administrations very core, and because of this no alterations would ever truly be taken into consideration.

Having been cast as Bat Boy at one point, I actually had the chance to not only read over but also make many of the changes in the script that the administration felt were trouble areas, and honestly, nothing was wrong with the final product, and I can almost bet if they had seen the edited version first, the play would have been a go with minimal complaints.

The other symptom of script shock is the inability to trust, or for that matter even give the same drama students and leaders that have been doing plays for years now to put together a tasteful production. The administration was so shaken by the original script that it completely ignored the promises from all those involved to present a final product that stayed true to the musical's content but also lived up to the school's standards.

Finally, I only have to say that whether working with the original or edited play, the same theme of the importance of acceptance in our society of those who are different still would have rung true.

Suhasini Bhargava
Co-Editor in Chief

Inevitably, the controversy surrounding the ex-spring musical "Bat Boy: The Musical" encompasses two main aspects: the content and theme of the musical and the administration's decision to cancel the play.

When taken into consideration conservative views held by a majority of the community of Fort Wayne, Indiana, evidence suggests that "Bat Boy" might have been a questionable production for a high school stage in Indiana. Undoubtedly, several members of this community are uncomfortable allowing concepts such as rape, bestiality, and drug use to be expressed in a theatrical form. Regardless of the tolerance motif promoted by "Bat Boy," some individuals claim that inappropriate (PG-13) concepts such as rape and drug use trump the play's redeeming value in society. Because artistic expression is often a reflection of society, "Bat Boy" may have been too adult for this conservative community.

The decision regarding the modesty of a musical or play is often left up to the administration's discretion. Although the administration's decision to cancel the play would have been acceptable had it occurred earlier during the school year, it was unjust and irrational in March. At the time that the principal decided to read the script and realized that the musical was not suitable for production by high school students, the musical had been cast and rehearsals had begun. Additionally, when the drama director had proposed the play originally, no questions had been raised. Therefore, the wisest decision should have been to allow the play to run because of practical timing. The drama director should have been trusted enough to present the controversial concepts in a tasteful manner; however, the slightly adult themes could have been advertised so only those comfortable with the expression of those ideas on a high school stage would have chosen to attend. Canceling the musical on accounts of thematic content (at this point in the year) is not worth disappointing the entire cast of "Bat Boy," and risking the production of a second-rate musical (due to time constraints).

Despite the presence of the administration's authority and justification for canceling the play, the decision was a poor one because of its negative impact on this school's actors, technical crewmembers, and theater department. Sometimes, true wisdom lies in refraining from exercising one's unquestionable authority.

Josh Zurawski
Co-Editor in Chief

After the death of a friend, bickering over the misfortunes of the drama department seems so unimportant, so inconsequential, and stupid. So instead of criticizing the director for picking a controversial play and then playing it off nonchalantly, or the administration, who failed to catch the faults of the play until after auditions, I will use the next 244 words of my allotted space to tell the stories of students who will be putting three hours a day every day of the week into rehearsals to make the new play, "Godspell," happen. If I don't tell their stories now, I may not have a chance to unless another tragedy befalls Homestead and it ends up on the front page like Zach Gentry.

Matt Anderson is a senior and has participated in every spring musical during his four years at Homestead. He was cast as Bat Boy, the lead role in "Bat Boy." He has also participated in Class Royale all fours. Matt was the number one doubles player his senior year in tennis. He is the Sports Editor of *the Spartana* and will be attending Indiana University next year.

Tommy Lyday will play Jesus in "Godspell." This is Tommy's first musical.

Jocelyn Gauthier has been in every play and every musical during her four years at Homestead. She has had numerous leads and also performs at the Civic Theater.

Jim Katz is known for his liberal views. He has shaggy brown hair and John, Paul, Ringo, and George adorn his tee shirt at least one day a week. He is also a writer for *the Spartana*.

Paola Montesino is a senior and has been in Elite for two years. She participated in last year's fall play. She is also a writer for the *Mirador* and plans on going to IU for college.

Ashley Butler has been in Class Royale for three years. She is the Profiles Editor of *the Spartana* and will be attending Indiana University. Yes, a lot of seniors will be attending IU.

Jamie Blosser is a senior and has been in show choir for the past four years. She was also acted in last year's spring musical. Blosser is known for carrying a different purse to school every day.

Oops, I'm running out of space, so Andy Wirtner, T.J. Samuels, Seth Dagger, Lori Panyard, Austin Hetrick, Mike Peck, Meg Warner, Greg Kyes, Laura Replogle, Philip Thompson, and Allison Douglas will have to hope "Godspell" gets cancelled, otherwise, their stories may never be told.

Christy Landrigan
Surplus Editor

"Discovered in a cave in Hope Falls, West Virginia, this half-bat has escaped from captivity and is currently at large," says "Bat Boy: the Musical""s website. "He can be identified by large, pointy ears and oversized eyes that make him profoundly sensitive to sound and light. The creature has reportedly attacked at least 3 people with his razor-sharp fangs [...]"

It sounds like the formula for an outrageous plot, with potential to either be riotously funny or ridiculously unbelievable. "Bat Boy: the Musical," though, steps from the bounds of any of these descriptions. It is a revolutionary piece of work that includes blatantly inappropriate sexual references in order to show that tolerance is important.

While I have not read the script, I have friends who were cast in the show who are livid with administrators for taking away their "right" to produce this musical. I disagree. Many high schools across the country do not have drama departments at all; it is a privilege we take for granted to have such an active arts department with such freedom to produce nearly any show. Controversy is not something of which the drama department is afraid, and I find it unbelievable when students say that the administration cut the play because of controversy. In past productions, mature content was present, but have the plays ever been as blatantly offensive?

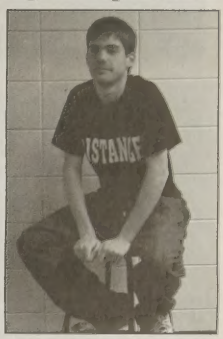
Even as a journalist, I am skeptical when the first amendment is used in frantic arguments to allow the production of "Bat Boy". If I were in the cast, I, too, would be upset at the administration's seemingly rash decision, but I hold my position that the school has a right to decide what message they want a school organization to portray. In the 1986 Supreme Court case *Bethel School District v Fraser*, the following explained a school's social responsibility.

"It is a highly appropriate function of public school education to prohibit the use of vulgar and offensive terms in public discourse . . . Schools must teach by example the shared values of a civilized social order."

Furthermore, even an optional attendance program is no place for inappropriate material.

"A high school assembly or classroom is no place for a sexually explicit monologue directed towards an unsuspecting audience of teenage students."

I could not agree more.



Dillon Kimmel
News Editor

With the *USA Today* giving our school a blurb in their world-renowned newspaper, "Bat Boy" has become a national issue. Closer to home, however, we have more pressing issues to deal with. An upset cast, a disgruntled drama director, and an administration quickly losing credibility are a few issues our school is dealing with.

The most disturbing thing to me is not that the play was canceled, but the way in which it was done. I personally have not seen the play. I now own the soundtrack, and there are places where I see the administration would have moral issues. Hints of rape, incest, and murder are scattered throughout the soundtrack, but it was not overly graphic. Nonetheless, it may not have been acceptable for a high school. I just do not know. And though it is not the administration's decision as to what we as students are to believe, it is their duty to keep harmful or inappropriate content out of the school walls. Whether "Bat Boy" did include explicit sexual and/or drug content, I can only speculate. But I trust the administration to make that call. However, their unexplained delay was not acceptable.

Sources have told the *Spartana* that "Bat Boy" was announced for production some time in August. My question is why in the world did it take so long for the administration to make the call that it was inappropriate? A script should have been requested for over the summer, and it needed to be read through thoroughly. I find it hard to believe that was not done, but obviously it was not. For some reason, a decision was made in March, after the play had been cast and practices had started. Now, members of the play "Bat Boy" are confused and angry. They worked extremely hard to be cast.

The inconsistencies shown by this administration are blatantly obvious. I remember the play "Tommy," which was put on by Homestead several years ago, included homosexual content and molestation. If that play was deemed acceptable, why was this one not allowed? Even "Les Miserables" last year had an entire song devoted to prostitution. The administration obviously has no clear-cut boundaries as to what can be shown within the school walls. "Bat Boy" may have been inappropriate, but that needed to be addressed a long time ago. Inconsistencies seem to run rampant with this current administration, and this time it is affecting the students in a negative way. That, I'm afraid, needs to change.

Schiavo case displays that government should not interfere with personal affairs

On March 19, 2005, an act easily passed both houses of Congress that effectively changed the jurisdiction of a court proceeding. At roughly 1:10 A.M., President Bush signed the document into law. Before leaving Washington later that morning, Bush praised Congress for "voting to give Terri Schiavo's parents another opportunity to save their daughter's life." The law destroys the ideals that the United States remains a "nation of laws, not of men."

By the time this editorial is published, it is likely Schiavo will have died. The effects of the law that bears her name, however, will live on for years. The act signed and championed by Bush and the majority of Republicans in Congress is unique in that an entire new set of rights was granted to a single family. In fact, Congress was so determined that the rights granted to the parents of Schiavo would not extend to other families, they included this statement in the act itself, in Section 7: "Nothing in this Act shall constitute a precedent with respect to future legislation, including the provision of private relief bills."

The fact that congress has taken this matter into its own hands must be examined carefully, and the motives of those responsible for the act should be exposed. Several factors are clear: this case was obviously well-known to the public before Congress intervened, and furthermore, the bill itself required no change to the laws and rights of incapacitated patients other than Schiavo. This allowed those responsible for pushing the legislation to pressure fellow representatives with "pro-life" rhetoric without fearing actual implications in any other case, and gained free publicity as the defenders of life. What must be realized however, is that intervention by Congress in the rights and judgment of individuals is rare for a reason: because not every battle for life is publicized.

Equally important in this case are the implications made by the bill concerning the jurisdiction and powers of State courts. The act destroys any credibility and integrity behind the Florida State courts' actions regarding Schiavo during the past eight years. Why should the judges and courts of states even exist if the aid of federal courts will be enlisted by legislatures every time an individual, highly-publicized case, is ruled against the morals of some politicians' constituents? What Americans have witnessed in this case is nothing more than a cruel, vindictive use of one family's pain by some in Congress in order to circumvent an entire judicial system and appear to have "saved" a life.

In the past weeks many protests including posters stating "Renegade Judges" have been staged outside the Hospice Schiavo has been kept in. Following a series of rejections in federal court to the parents of Schiavo, one must wonder which branch of government in this case has acted in a fashion worthy of the word "renegade". The act of March 19 must be recognized for what it was: an appeal at the morality and ignorance of the American people in one case. A precedent must be set that the legislature shall never again make such a mistake as making a law placing an individual's rights above another's. **Editorial Board Vote: 3 For, 2 Against.**

Cancellation of spring musical. 1A • PC vs. Mac 4A • Schiavo case. 5A • College visits. 8A •
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Student Input

"Prayer in school should not be allowed because it may cause the school to favor one religion over another, and that is not the way we want our school to be perceived.

Pragya Sharma (11)

"I think that prayer in school should be allowed. However, I don't think the school should portray it as the "proper thing" to do. For example, I do not think that it is appropriate to ask everyone to bow their head in prayer after a national tragedy. People should be allowed to pray just as they are allowed to talk about religion in general. You run into a problem when the school leads a prayer and one or more people feel isolated because they aren't Christian, or Jewish, or Muslim."

Travis Drake (11)

"I would not be opposed to having a time during the day when students can pray. For students who don't want to do that, it is their choice. No one is going to force them [to pray].

Andrew Schroeder (10)

"Prayer shouldn't be given its own separate time during the day. If they want to pray it can be done whenever they have a free moment in class.

Doug Snyder (9)

Dillon Kimmel
News Editor

Every day at lunch, an individual whom I frequently sit near, sits down with his food, and prays over his meal before speaking to anyone. It's a relatively quick prayer; maybe thirty seconds. He is very discreet about it and doesn't make a scene. I have no problem with it, and in fact, I commend him for being so steadfast in his faith. He is respected for who he is by those around him, and no one pesters him. Why? Because he does it in a way that does not offend anyone. He just keeps to himself and does not impose his beliefs on others.

If a person wants to pray in school and does it in a way that does not disrupt the school day, I have no problem with it at all. Students are entitled to their own opinions. If they want to say a quick prayer over their meal or plead for knowledge during a killer math test, I see no reason to not allow that. I've been known to ask for a little extra boost during finals week, or for just a few more steps when I'm dyin' during a cross country meet.

It seems a little ludicrous that students would have a problem with a quiet, tranquil prayer. If the kid falls to his knees in the middle of class and starts screaming at the top of his lungs, then I can see the person's concerns. But just because a student does not share similar values, does not mean a person shouldn't respect a student's beliefs. And if their religion calls for them to pray at a certain time in the day quietly, or even if they just want to, everyone should respect that. As long as the student is not being disruptive, I don't see a problem with it.

Those of you out there who are rolling your eyes at me, I know what you are thinking. Separation of church and state is the law! And I'm here to inform you I know the law quite well. In 1802, a guy named Thomas Jefferson wrote "... I contemplate with solemn reverence that act of the whole American people which declared that their legislature should 'make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof,' thus building a wall of separation between Church and State..." Prior to that, in 1789, church was legally separated from the state. Church is in no way supposed to interfere with the school system. I understand this and even agree with it. But there's nothing in there about praying quietly to oneself, I'm afraid. As long as the person does not impose his beliefs on others, the law has no problem with it.

> If the kid falls to his knees in the middle of class and starts screaming at the top of his lungs, then I can see their concerns.

I have another argument for the critics out there. Homestead High School does allow churches and religious groups to advertise in sports and drama programs. Additionally, church leaders are allowed to come into lunch and eat with students and pass out flyers. They are imposing their religious beliefs on people who may not want to see it or hear it. Our school is willingly taking support from religious organizations in order to fund events and programs. If people have a problem with a simple prayer, they should be throwing a fit over this issue. I, personally, do not mind this so much because I have grown up in church, but I wonder if it is constitutional.

The issue of prayer in school should not be an issue, and I do not believe it has become a big one at this school. But I know there are those out there that highly disapprove when they see such actions take place. To them, prayer should not be allowed to take place inside the school walls, and it seems a bit baffling to me. If the student conducts himself in a subdued, unimposing way, then people should just let them be.

Dillon Kimmel is a sophomore and works as the News Editor for the Spartana. *The views and opinions expressed in this column do not necessarily represent those of* the Spartana *or of its staff.*

Prayer in school: should students be given the right to pray while in school?

Austin Hetrick
Writer

For decades the question of whether separation of church and state should stand has been widely debated. One critical component of this principle is whether prayer should be allowed in school. While religion can indeed be beneficial and help strengthen the moral values of individuals, I do not feel that public school, or any public document, is a place where it should be practiced.

Since the creation of the United States of America, one of the principles of the nation has been the distinction and separation between church and state established in the First Amendment to the Constitution. The Supreme Court has since upheld the principle of separation of church and state in various instances. As recent as 2002, in the case of *FFRF v Rhea County Board of Education*, federal courts declared that it was unconstitutional for a public school to host college students who taught a Bible-study course.

The ideal of separation of church and state is necessary to maintain equality and fairness in schools. Inevitably if religion were allowed in public education, one religion would be favored over others. This has happened on numerous occasions, and in almost every case the courts have deemed the situation unconstitutional. What is even more important is that the introduction of religion into schools can take away valuable time for students to learn and furthermore make students not included in the process feel isolated or even inferior. In short, the instillment of uniform prayer in public education places an unneeded burden upon the shoulders of what is largely a minority in this nation.

But what really establishes church influence in schools? Arguably the churches in Allen County hold much power in our educational system; their funding is critical towards our arts and sports programs, and members of local religious institutions make up the majority of Homestead's population. But the difference between influence and direct power is a great one. Although the wishes of a church and community may influence an educational system, they have yet, as far as I know, actually forced an individual to act against his will in my school.

In truth, a sanctioned time for prayer would be an innocent action and no doubt might aid some students who need the time to gather their thoughts or gain strength for the day through prayer. But in this action, a single step would be taken to distinguish, to separate, and to condone, one way of life, while seemingly refusing to acknowledge the other.

Students who do not believe in any religion, or prefer to pray in private, will find themselves in an uncomfortable situation. Democracy is meant in many instances to protect the minority and more importantly the rights of all people, and by instituting time for daily prayer that would "benefit" some students, while arguably isolating students who believe differently from the majority, the cause of democracy and intention of our government's forefathers would be betrayed.

In the issue of separation of church and state I believe there is needed in this nation an even greater extension of the law. I feel that the words "under God" and all other references to the majority's religion should be stricken from public documents and declarations. I do not agree with those who claim that these terms trace a long tradition of religion in our nation's history; instead, I would state that these words represent a long tradition of inequality in our nation, one born out of the ideal that politicians should place their beliefs into the work of the government. These words, no matter how relevant to a majority, are not necessary in a public document and the very intent of those same forefathers who constructed our democracy demands that this tradition be stricken.

Many would argue that our very laws and government are based on our religion, (the Judeo-Christian ethic) and that they provide a basis for every moral decision made in the United States. But the founders implied through their Bill of Rights that the state and church should remain separate in order to protect the state from influence, and this principal remains critical today to our nation. In a country filled with powerful politics and large organizations (religious and secular), it should be remembered that the two have mixed in the past, and should they mix again, the end result will no doubt be the same.

Should our country ever sanction a religious time in school, or elsewhere, the results would be disastrous. Slowly, inevitably, a difference would be drawn between those who felt one way, and those who felt another. And the minority would become more and more identified, until at last, the persecution could take new forms, and as in times past, progress through the realm of discrimination.

Of course the philosophy and politics of this decision are really rather simple. Should a government take the time and effort to promise a moment for something a majority would appreciate? Should they risk a few seconds of distinction between two groups? Perhaps the more important question is: is that risk worth taking? Should our government take a chance that has destroyed whole nations, and ruined whole cultures? Can we afford to make that first step?

Austin Hetrick is a sophomore and works as a writer for the Spartana. *The views and opinions expressed in this column do not necessarily represent those of* the Spartana *or of its staff.*

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The Spartana is a biweekly production of the Journalism 3/4 class at Homestead High School. Its purpose is to enlighten, educate, and entertain. *The Spartana* has and may continue to operate as a limited open forum for the free exchange of ideas.

Profanity may appear in *the Spartana* with the approval of the advisor, but only in cases of direct quotations or if it is necessary for clarity. Material which is libelous or obscene and could cause substantial and material disruption, as defined by the Supreme Court, will not be printed.

Public input will be accepted in the form of letters to the editor. Letters must follow standards concerning liable or obscenity. Those which could cause substantial and material disruption, as defined by the Supreme Court will not be printed.

Staff members of *the Spartana* support the First Amendment rights and oppose censorship in any form. The content of the paper is determined by the student staff. In cases of potentially controversial material the editorial board will meet to decide the content of the newspaper. Students will be assisted by the advisor in areas of professional ethics and legalities.

Zach Gentry, 2A • Year Book, 3A • Bat Boy, 4A • Science Fair, 7A • College visits, 8A

Scholarly Success

Seniors Kasey Butcher, Jasmyn Burton awarded prestigious scholarships to attend Ball State

Kelly Childs
Writer

Kasey Butcher (12) and Jasmyn Burton (12) have recently been awarded the prestigious Inauguration Scholarship, which is new to Ball State University this year. The new president of the school, Jo Ann M. Gora, requested to forgo a formal president's inauguration ceremony and is instead using the money to award deserving students with a scholarship. Benefactors also donated $10,000 each to help the university.

Butcher and Burton are in the company of twenty-three other Indiana students who were awarded $8,000 for the 2005-06 academic year. This money is to be used for any educational expenses. The scholarship will be carried throughout four years and is in excess of $32,000. The total cost to attend Ball State amounts to $13,000 each year, so the scholarship will cover about two-thirds of Butcher's and Burton's expenses.

> "I was actually really surprised [that I won the scholarship]. I wasn't sure about what college to attend but this definitely helped in finalizing my decision."
>
> Jasmyn Burton

Butcher said Ball State was a consideration for college, but she was not positive she wanted to attend. After she was awarded the scholarship, it was definite she would attend the university.

"It was already looking like I was going to go there, but I wasn't sure yet," Butcher said. "This scholarship was the deciding factor."

When she applied to the school, she applied for the Whitinger scholarship. This scholarship awarded ten people full-rides to Ball State. The new president took the other eligible candidates from this scholarship and made her decision for the new scholarship. It was a surprise for Butcher to find out she received her scholarship, because she had not even applied, but fortunately she was eligible from the other scholarship's application.

On Tuesday, March 14, Butcher was surprised with the good news.

"They sent a letter to me and had it FedEx'd overnight," Butcher said. "The letter was sitting for me at the post office and I didn't know what it was, but I knew it was important. My mom was really panicky."

With this scholarship, Butcher will be able to indulge in opportunities she would have not otherwise been able to pursue.

"I'm really excited because this gives me the opportunity to do things I wouldn't have been able to afford, like studying a semester in Europe," Butcher said.

Burton was equally excited about receiving the scholarship.

"I was actually really surprised," Burton said. "I wasn't sure about what college to attend but this definitely helped in finalizing my decision. I was very excited overall and I'm really looking forward to attending Ball State."

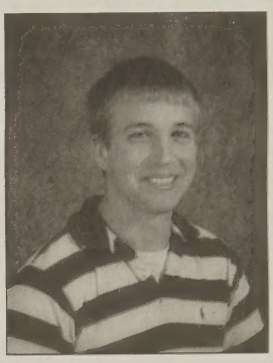
Burton attended the ceremony which honored the twenty-five winners, which was held at the State House in Indianapolis on March 29. The girls got to meet Governor Mitch Daniels, as well as other important Ball State officials.

Burton explained that most of the candidates that won the scholarship had a GPA of 3.8 and above. Most of the winners' SAT scores were between 1200 and 1400. Burton also explained that extra curriculars had a role in narrowing the winners down.

Burton was involved in the Colorguard for several years in high school. She also was a part of track her freshman year, and is a member of National Honor Society.

KASEY BUTCHER (12)

JASMYN BURTON (12)



ANDREW HOLLENBECK (12)

JASON LEUNG (12)

Students participate in annual science fair at IPFW; Jason Leung receives first place win, trip to nationals

Kelly Childs
Writer

The regional Intel ISEF (International Science and Engineering Fair) competition was held Saturday March 19 at IPFW, and this year four Homestead students entered. Andrew Hollenbeck (12), Jason Leung (12), Neel Patel (12), and Neil Shah (12) competed and Leung was selected to move on to the national competition.

The fair was held for the Fort Wayne region, which included Allen, Whitley, Wells, Miami, Kosciusko, Huntington, and Adams counties.

The competition was divided into four categories: engineering, math, computer sciences, and biochemistry.

Students competed against others from their category and were awarded a place, and then competed against all other participants to move on to nationals.

Only two students from this school were chosen to compete on the national level, and Leung was one of them.

"There were eight or nine projects this year, and they were really good," Leung said. "So I was pretty excited to find out that I qualified for nationals."

Leung became involved in this competition because he is enrolled in science projects and techniques class with Hollenbeck. The competition was required for the class, so they both entered.

Leung started working on his project shortly after the 2003-04 school year ended.

To prepare his project, he had to find a mentor who would assist him.

"It was difficult to find a mentor who was willing to volunteer his time, lab, and resources to help me," Leung said.

He found an analytical chemical professor from IPFW and he began working with him in mid-June.

He believes that he averaged working six hours a day during the summer for about six weeks, from mid-June through early-August.

In the summer, he spent most of his time researching, and once school started, he utilized class time to compile the information collected and write his paper.

While his project is very complicated, Leung gave a brief synopsis for those who are not biochemical experts.

"I developed a technique to quantify the mercury level in water and fish tissue samples," Leung said.

Last year he entered the competition and placed third at state.

He said he was not sure how he would do at the regional competition this year because the two students who were chosen to go to the national competition last year entered again this year. Leung was able to surpass that problem, however, and is now going to Phoenix, Arizona in May for the national competition.

In Arizona, he will strive to beat out among 1,200 students from around the world, including China, Germany, and Mexico.

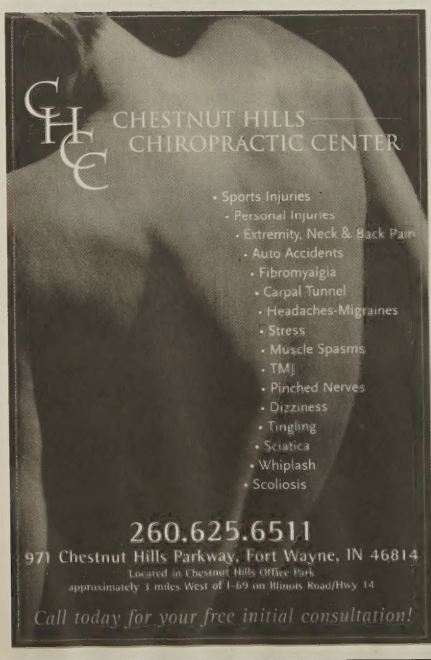
Leung will be traveling on this all expenses paid trip from May 8-14.

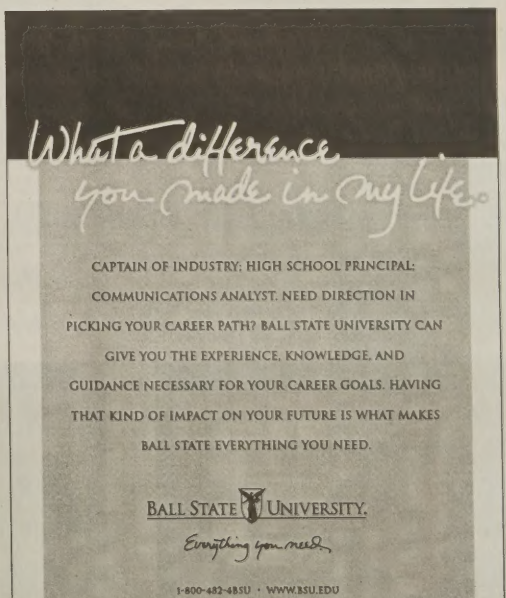
"I will be traveling with Abigail Hines [the other winner], her mother [who is also her teacher], and then I'm supposed to have a teacher," Leung said. "There's also Jeff Nowak who is the supervisor of both of the qualifiers."

He is not sure what to expect from a competition at a national level, but he knows that everyone who made it to Phoenix has a great project that they have been working on.

While in Phoenix, Leung is interested to see the variety of all the projects.

After spending nine months preparing his project, Leung has been rewarded. If anyone sees him in the hallway, give him a high-five and congratulate him.

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Ashley Butler
Profiles Editor

As the year begins to draw to a close, senior students are starting to make their final decisions as to which college they will attend in the fall.

For some, this is an easy process that only involves filling out an application for one school, but for others, it involves countless essays, a lot of patience, and a great deal of stress.

"The application process is stressful because it takes so long to hear back from all of the different schools," Jocelyn Gauthier (12) said. "Writing the essays is time consuming, but finding out where you get accepted is worth it."

Selective colleges are beginning to give students their admission decisions, and students can now make a firm college selection.

Students who wish to stay in Indiana are faced with a number of options of schools to choose from.

Indiana University, Ball State University, Purdue University and IPFW are common choices for Homestead students. Each of the schools excels academically, while they are all known for different aspects of the college experience

"IU is in state, so it's close to home," Neel Patel (12) said. "I know a lot of people that are going there."

Indiana University in Bloomington is quite possibly the most popular choice for students

"I'm going to IU for the Kelley School of Business, which is one of the best in the nation," Katie Beck (12) said. "And you can't beat the IU campus!"

Another option, Ball State University, which is known for its excellent education program, is also popular among students.

In addition to Indiana University and Ball State, Purdue seems to be highly respected among students. Whether students are interested in engineering or the arts, Purdue provides a solid education across the board.

"Purdue is really big," Stephanie Hansen (12) said. "It always seems like there is something happening on campus."

For those students who want to stay at home while getting a college education from a public school, IPFW is a choice.

Also offered at IPFW for high school students is the Collegiate Connection program. With this program, students are able to take classes at the university level while still attending high school.

Students enrolled in the program are able to leave high school two periods early for every class at IPFW that they are registered for.

"IPFW is a good transition to college before I actually go," Erin Currie (12) said. "I know what college is going to be like without actually living there."

At IPFW, students can choose to receive their diploma from either Indiana University or Purdue University.

Often, students will spend their first few years at the Fort Wayne campus before transferring to either Lafayette or Bloomington.

"It's exciting to go to a big ten school," Hansen (12) said. "There are always activities to participate in."

> "IPFW is a good transition to college before I actually go, I know what college is going to be like without living there."
> Erin Currie (12)

Students	16,727
Tuition	$3,724
Class	1A
Faculty	1,891
Majors	200

"Purdue is really big, and it always seems like there is something happening on campus."
Stephanie Hansen (12)

Students	38,589
Tuition	$5,115
Class	1A
Faculty	1,877
Majors	421

"I'm going for the Kelley School of Business. It's one of the best in the nation, and you can't beat the IU campus!"
Katie Beck (12)

Students	20,500
Tuition	$5,752
Class	1A
Faculty	903
Majors	150

Students	11,957
Tuition	$4,535
Class	1A
Faculty	2,630
Majors	58

Spring musical cancelled. 1A • Zach Gentry. 2A • Prayer in school. 6A • College visits. 8A
you are here

Boys Track
Wrapping up the indoor season and hitting the track running.
p. 2

Sports

A new beginning...
Three seniors captains lead first ever Homestead lacrosse season.
p. 4

Issue 11 • the Spartana • April 1, 2005

Individual achievements

Students participate independently in sports including horseback riding, tae kwon do

Matt Anderson
Sports Editor

Athletics in today's society play countless roles for their participants: they build social skills, develop players physically, and improve work ethic. Furthermore, sports allow one to fill that burning void and find one's personal niche. They provide that one thing that can make everyone feel unique and special in the overcrowded hallways and classrooms today: recognition.

But some of the athletes that attend school are not always given the amount of recognition that others receive. Working, practicing, and succeeding outside of the school system's eyes, students who strive to achieve in athletic fields not offered as a varsity or club sport by the school can end their athletic career with little attention for major accomplishments.

Molly Jorgensen (12) has been involved in horseback riding for ten years now, and yet few peers outside of her closest friends know about her extra-curricular escapades.

> "When someone in an 'out of school sport' accomplishes something big nobody knows about it, but people in school sports get recognized for even the smallest accomplishments.
>
> -Molly Jorgensen (12)

Starting at a horse camp when she was a child, Jorgensen now trains all year with her horse Cowboy and competes in state competitions, yet receives little recognition while at school which has proven to be trying.

"Not being recognized at school has been frustrating," Jorgensen said. "When someone in an 'out of school' sport accomplishes something big nobody know about it, but people in school sports get recognized for even the smallest accomplishments."

Fortunately, Jorgensen has had little trouble gaining personal accolades throughout her career. She has placed 1st in the State Line Track Children's Medal at the Traders Point Charity Horse Show, 6th two years in a row at the Indiana Hunter Jumper Association Medal Finals, and 4th at the NAL Classic at the Waterloo Hunt Horse Show. Still, she loves the attention she does get from friends, and wishes there were more.

"It's nice when my friends get involved and support me," Jorgensen said. "They know how important horses are to me. It's frustrating especially when people in school sports complain nobody comes to their games or meets. Barely anyone from school comes to my shows."

Other athletes that compete outside of school programs have also run into similar scenarios of being successful but receiving little attention from classmates; for some athletes though, the personal rewards out weigh the loss of recognition. Andy Wirtner (11) is a ranked tae kwon do martial artist and has been competing for about three years now. He focuses on the physical strength and fitness he receives from his training and downplays any lack of publicity from his sport.

"It can be frustrating when you accomplish something big, and then get little recognition, but I'm used to that now," Wirtner said. "Besides, I don't do tae kwon do for the recognition. I do it because it's great exercise and the people involved are great."

In the relatively short time Wirtner has been competing in his sport, he has become a 1st degree black belt, has been ranked 3rd in forms, 6th in sparring, and 3rd in weapons in the state. Competing in the seventeen to twenty-nine year old division, Wirtner hopes to continue to move up the rankings. Still, most of the students that surround him know little if any about his extracurricular activity. Wirtner is also a certified instructor at Coventry Tae Kwon Do where he teaches classes. He is currently working towards his 2nd degree black belt.

"My friends and family know, but to the majority I don't come off as the stereotypical martial artist," Wirtner said. "I think it would be nice for people to know what I do, only so they could possibly try it. I encourage people to join me all the time, but no one takes up the offer."

Students such as Wirtner and Jorgensen attend class everyday in the school. So, just remember, that kid sitting across the room may be the world's next best fencer.

» Molly Jorgensen (12) pets her horse Cowboy at a competition. Jorgensen trains all year with her horse and competes in state competitions. Jorgensen placed 1st in the State Line Track Children's Medal at the Traders Point Charity Horse Show. She placed 6th two years in a row at the Indiana Hunter Jumper Association Medal Finals, and 4th at the NAL Classic at the Waterloo Hunt Horse Show.

photocourtesymolly jorgensen

photocourtesyandy wirtner

« Andy Wirtner (11) is pictured here at a tae kwon do tournament. Wirtner has been participating in tae kwon do for three years. In this time, Wirtner has achieved the level of 1st degree black belt. Wirtner is also an instructor for the American Tae Kwon Do Association, which has a school at Coventry.

Individual Sports

-Horseback Riding	-Badminton
-Martial Arts	-Car Racing
-Ice Skating	-Skiing
-Fencing	-Cycling
-Dance	-Hiking
-Raquetball	-Running

Varsity baseball relies on experience; has positive outlook for season

Evan Childers
Writer

As winter loosens its hold on Fort Wayne, and the first days of spring brighten our doorstep, the varsity baseball squad is taking to the fields with an optimistic outlook. Despite finishing with a dismal 14-15 record, the team's multiple returning seniors and young talent appear ready to propel themselves to a conference title, and maybe even a trip to the state championship.

"We should do real well this season," pitcher Chris Copley (12) said. "We have high expectations, and lot of returning seniors, so we're expecting to go far this year."

Copley is one of seven returning seniors, all of which are veterans ready to take the team to the next level. After a quick exit from last year's postseason play, in which the team defeated South Side but subsequently lost to Northrop, the team is drawing on its experience and reservoir of talent to overcome the challenges faced in the previous season. Optional practices have been taking place for over a month, under the leadership of Coach Keith Potter, and the team has taken full advantage of the opportunity. Social studies teacher Tim Decker assists with coaching the baseball team.

"We're really moving forward quickly in the practices," Copley said.

The pitching duo of Jared Baker (12) and Copley is expected to wreak havoc on area batters. The two will be accompanied by pitchers Nick Johnston (11) and Taylor Kinzer (11), and together the four will present a formidable challenge for opponents.

While the team dishes out punishment from the mound, it will deliver it from the plate. Ryan Chenoweth (12), Tyler Keena (12), and Kinzer plan to show area pitchers why they were all-conference selections last year. Together, they hope to help put the Spartans on the map.

"We're really looking forward to getting started," Copley said. "We've been showing a lot of promise in practice, and we're eager to get out on the field and show what we can do."

Copley hopes the team will win conference, and with the talent on the team, there is no reason to believe otherwise.

"There are a few good teams in our conference, but we're not really worried," Copley said. "We hope to either be able to win it [conference] or we'll at least make a good run at it."

While the team doesn't want to lose focus on individual games, or the regular season, nevertheless all sites are set on making a dramatic run as soon as postseason play begins. The Spartans will meet some of the state's toughest competition face to face in sectional play, scheduled to occur later in the season. The team will need to show its mettle and grit if it hopes to defeat some of the area's most talented teams.

"Our sectionals are one of the toughest in state," Copley said. "If we hope to win out of the, we'll have to beat Snider. They're ranked 7th in state in the preseason polls. But if we can get past Snider we have a good chance [of getting to state]" Copley said.

But other teams' rankings and last year's record is the farthest thing from the players' minds right now. Enthusiasm and optimism is rampant at practices. The team is obviously anxious to play.

"Although we aren't ranked right now, we will be," Copley said. "Mark my words."

photozach hetrick

» Taylor Kinzer (11) pitches during a team practice.

Varsity Baseball Schedule

April 5: vs Blackford @ Home - 4:30 pm
April 9: vs Marion @ Marion - 12:00 pm
April 12: vs Dwenger @ Home - 4:15 pm
April 13: vs Manchester @ Manchester - 4:30 pm

Individual Sports. 1B • Boys Track and Field. 2B • JV Track and Field. 3B • Lacrosse. 4B
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Boys varsity track begins season with hard practices and hopes for placement at state

Josh Butcher
Writer

After a long winter of extra training, spring has finally come, and so has a new track season for the Homestead boys. Some of the boys started working out as early as December, running at the YMCA, and most of the guys started in early January doing various workouts. This year to prepare, not only have they started earlier indoors, but have had much harder workouts. This dedication and hard work will hopefully show, as the boys are excited to finally get their season underway.

The boys track team may not have a lot of depth this year, but they definitely have some very strong members that will step it up. With some talented seniors this may be a year for them to really shine.

"We have some young guns," Pat Buschman (11) said. "But more importantly, we have many valuable seniors."

This year the team has fewer people, but more talent. Some key members on the team will be Mitch Eskritt (12), Tim Reid (12), and Kenneth Perkins (11).

"Mitch Eskritt is an important runner on the team because he is a good team captain," Reid said. "Also, 'K-Sam' is good at anything you run him in."

All three members are capable of scoring the team some major points this year and holding the team on their shoulders.

As some may think, the sport of track and field is not just running around in a circle. The team consists of athletes who perform in the various events of running, throwing, jumping, or pole vault. There are 16 events in all; the 100, 200, 400, and 800-meter dash, the 1600 and 3200-meter run, high and low hurdles, the 400, 1600, and 3200-meter relay, shot put, discuss, high and long jump, and pole vault. Practices for the runners usually consist of warm ups, lots of hard running of long or short distances, and various things such as starts out of the block. The throwers work on increasing power and practicing their steps for their throws. They get in a lot of reps of throwing the shot put, discuss, or both. The jumpers do different drills to increase strength and quickness needed to jump, and the pole vaulters' practice usually includes warm ups, running, and of course getting lots of practice pole vaulting.

The first and foremost team goal is to win conference, but also the team would really like to see some guys go to state.

"Our goal as a team is to win conference," said high and long jumper Kyle Knezovich (10). "We lost last year by a few points. I also would personally love to have a chance at state."

The runners are going to have to hold the team together this year. The strength of the team lies in the sprinters and other running events. The sport, although, is called track and field, so the stronger members of the field events will have to do their share in getting points for the team as well.

"Field events are going to be our weakness, so we're going to need people to step it up in that area," said high jumper Desmond Lewis (10).

» Bryce Heckber (11) runs a sprint relay during a meet.

photozach hetrick

» Kyle Knezovich (10) competes in long jump during a meet. « Ross Heckber (9) hurdles during an away meet.

The team may not have ultimate depth but each event has some strong competitors.

"I think we are pretty strong all the way around," said Shane Ruckel, a new freshman pole vaulter on the team.

There is a lot to look forward to in boys varsity track this season. The team has some really great competitors looking to get to state and possibly breaking some records while they are attempting to accomplish their former goal. The boys have improved greatly by their hard work this winter and are focused on winning and accomplishing their goals. The team has been working hard for a long time, has done a great amount of conditioning, and is ready for a tremendous season. They started out strong against Elmhurst, winning 100-23.

Girls tennis prepares for a new season

Erin Quinn
Writer

The prospect of joining the program that was runner-up in the state last year must be appealing to the 54 girls trying out for the tennis team.

Last year's team, loaded with senior talent, finished second in the state, behind powerhouse North Central.

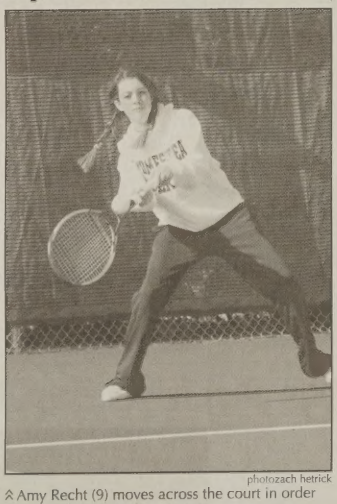
"We lost a lot of good seniors," Amy Recht (10) said. "We will definitely never have that same thing again; but we'll try our best and there are a couple of new freshmen that will be an asset to the team."

Head Coach Jim Shull, 2004 All-District Coach of the Year, said, "54 girls trying out is a record. Unfortunately, I can't keep them all, because we only have 10 courts."

The players began attending organized conditioning sessions three weeks ago to get in shape. This way they would be able to maximize the time they would have outside on the courts.

"It wouldn't do any good to have nice weather and be able to play outside if all of us were dying from exhaustion," Melanie Denney (9) said. "We have to make good use of the time outside, which means being in shape for when we can get out and hit."

Inside, the girls stretch, sprint, and do basic conditioning drills to prepare for the coming season. The team ventured outside for the first time on last Thursday, due to unexpected nice weather. Normally, the players begin hitting after running laps and warming up. Because 'tryouts' are still going on and the team has not been designated, the courts were crowded.



photozach hetrick

» Amy Recht (9) moves across the court in order to hit the ball during a match last season.

"I hope to figure out who deserves to be on the team by spring break," Shull said.

The girls' first match is against Snider, on Tuesday, April 12th. Recht predicts that Canterbury is the toughest team in the area, however, she said that their real competition lies in the teams from Indianapolis, such as Munster and North Central.

The Indy teams will not be encountered until the tournament section of the season, which begins with sectionals in May. In order to advance to the regional competition, the team will have to win three sectional matches. At regionals, they must win two matches to move on to semi-state, where they will have to win another two matches. The state champion is determined through two matches against the best of the best, including the Indy teams.

Last year, Recht was in the number three singles spot, behind Erin Wright (11) and Laura Phillip ('04). This season, Wright and Melissa Martin (11) hope to be the top doubles team and Recht hopes to be the number one singles player.

"We are really just hoping to do as well as last season," Recht said.

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Golf holds advantage having not lost seniors last year

Erin Quinn
Writer

The boys golf team held tryouts last week, and anticipated having their first practice at the beginning of this week. The team is coached by Rod Parker, Woodside science teacher, and led by young phenomenon Erich Johnston (10).

Last year, Johnston, as a freshman, shot a team-high nine hole score of 30 and played in the number one position on the team.

"I have played under a lot of pressure before, so it really wasn't that intimidating to be the top player," Johnston said.

To prepare for the coming season, which officially begins April 12th with a match against Concordia, Johnston and his teammates have practiced at the Golf Dome and taken trips to play in the warmer Southern states.

"I just recently won a tournament outside of Salem, North Carolina. I placed fifth in a tournament outside of Sea Island, Georgia, and also fifth in a Tampa Bay tournament," Johnston said.

Because there were not any seniors on last year's team, they feel confident that their experience will help them get past sectionals. Although they shot 205 in the sectional meet last year, they failed to advance. They ended the season abruptly after going 13-0 in week matches.

This season, the team will have many seniors, all with varsity experience. J.T Macleod (12), Jeff Mason (12), Paul Gauger (12), Mickey Mazok (12), David Childers (12), and Justin Humphries (12) are all familiar with the courses, competition, and pressures of the sport.

The team practices and plays home matches at the Chestnut Hills Golf Course.

"Almost every day after school, the team splits up into groups of three or four and we'll play nine holes, which takes a couple of hours," Ryan Haines (9) said.

Johnston predicts that Warsaw, Leo, Norwell, and Wawasee will be some tough area competitors. However, he feels he should be a contender to compete at the state competition.

Varsity baseball. 1B • Boys track. 2B • Junior varsity track. 3B • Lacrosse Highlights. 4B
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Season commences for reserve track teams

Austin Hetrick
Writer

Every day students work hard at their grades for eight long, trying hours. As most of the students head home on the buses, a dedicated group begins what most people would call their hardest work of the day. For some of them, it's their favorite part. The JV track team is off to a great start this year, having easily won both of their first track meets. Their next meet will be at home on Wednesday, April 6.

"Practice for the team began in late January," said coach Dick Shenfeld who teaches health education.

Shenfeld and the women's coach, Anne Tiernon, (who also teaches physical education) guide the team through their daily routines of running, throwing, and the other numerous track activities.

The teams practice from 2:50 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. on a daily basis. The make-up of the JV team is mostly underclassmen, and totals nearly 60 members.

"Many of the members have greatly improved over the course of the practice season," Shenfeld said. "This is probably due to the more intense practices [for high school] as compared to Woodside's and Summit's teams. Junior high practices generally were less intense, and lasted for a shorter time period than the current JV schedules."

The team's next meet will be at home, on Wednesday, April 6th. Huntington North and South Side High schools competed at Homestead's home meet held on Tuesday, March 29. The team almost doubled their opponents' scores, easily defeating both clubs. Following the end of their season, the JV team will have to wait another year for competition, as there is no state for reserve team members.

> Their goal [is] always self-improvement in their events throughout the year.
> Dick Shenfeld

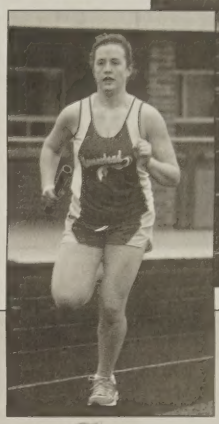
The team's next meet will be at home, on Wednesday, April 13th against Columbia City. Their following meet will be at Northside Relays, on Saturday, April 16. Huntington North and South Side High Schools competed at Homesteads home meet held on Tuesday, March 29, and will compete against them again in upcoming meets. The JV team almost doubled their opponents' scores, easily defeating both clubs. Following the end of their season, the JV team will have to wait another year for competition, as there is no state for the JV team.

For the most part JV members are involved in throwing and running, and although the do not compete at state level, the JV squad works just as hard as the rest of track team. Team members participate in a variety of activities, including runs of lengths from 100 meters to 3200 meters (a mile,) shot-put, and long jump, high jump, various relays (4x100, 4x400, 4x800), and some hurtles.

The team has been a staple of Homestead's athletic department, and track as a whole is perhaps the most widely-participated-in activity at Homestead. The team's regular schedule and determination establish the JV team as a hardworking group. Their goal, according to Shenfeld, is "always self-improvement in their event throughout the year."

With several upcoming meets and great start to the competition season, the JV track men and women look forward to another year of hard work, and hopefully improvement.

Brian » Graham (10) successfully receives the baton in a relay race. ⅟ Chelsea Garton (10) runs her leg of a sprint relay.



photos/zach hetrick

⅟ Hannah Smith (10) competes in the 100 meter hurdles at a home meet against Huntington North. « Evan Niner (11) and Mike Townsend (10) stay together while running in a long distance race at an away meet.

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Girls rugby season starts off strong

Team beats previous state champions; reevaluates goals for season

Joe Salisbury
Writer

With warmer temperatures signaling that springtime on the way, the girls rugby team has started their training in hopes of a successful season. After several weeks of practice, where they worked on the basics of rugby to the finer points of the game, they were eager to begin the season.

The team feels that they have come a long way, even from the beginning of the season. Their coach has noticed improvement and is happy with the team's work ethic. They are ready to try their best, and give the team everything they can.

Even though the team was average last year, they have improved tremendously since then. They have a lot of team members back from last season, and they will provide leadership and experience to the team.

A majority of last year's team was underclassmen and they have come back in hopes of improving on last season. The experience that they gained last season can only help them improve on their record this year.

Much of the team has showed the desire to become one of the better teams in the state and are ready to show how far they have come in a short period of time.

"We were alright last year," Mary Salamone (10) said. "We won some, we lost some, but I also think we learned alot from last year. I think we have a much better chance of beating some good teams this year. I think we have a strong team this year. There will be some good speed in our back line, which will help us out a lot."

The girls rugby team kicked off their season with the Homestead Jamboree on March 13th. It was filled with several of the top teams from the state, and it was a great experience to help open the season.

Their first weeks of hard practices paid off early. Just as Salamone had thought, they came out strong and played very well over the past weekend. They beat the defending girls state rugby champions, Penn, in a very exciting match.

At the jamboree, they also beat Warsaw, another tough opponent. However, the team tied in their third and final game to South Bend Clay. Even with the tie, it was a positive way to start the season.

Beating the defending state champions, the team realized they are one of the better teams in the state this year, and have set high goals. The team's schedule has been changed several times recently due to opponents dropping out.

Once again, rugby is a club sport, so it is not sponsored through the high school. While many students and people forget about these teams, they still put a lot of hard work and effort into the season.

"Our coach works us really hard at our practices," Salamone said. "Especially early in the season, to prepare us for all our important matches early in the season. It all pays off though, we all enjoy the success. Especially beating Penn, they were a very good team, and it really got our team going. I think our coach and the dedication has helped our team out a lot."

The jamboree was, hopefully, only the beginning of a very successful season for the girls rugby team.

Team Roster

* *Stephanie Hamil (12)*
* *Jenna Salamone (12)*
* *Jessica Bruce (11)*
* *Julia Haler (11)*
* *Katie Mahara (11)*
* *Jeannette Natusch (11)*
* *Ashley Taylor (11)*
* *Mary Salamone (10)*
* *Gabby Tolentino (10)*

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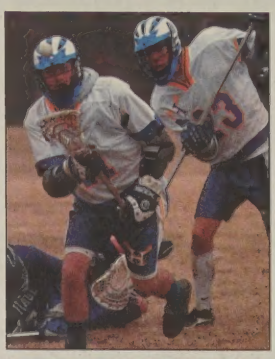


photos/zach hetrick

Building Their Own Bridges

As the Homestead Club Lacrosse team embarks on its first season, the team battles inexperience in attempts to prove itself as a legitimate threat in the lacrosse community

Chase Meeks (12) cradles the ball in Homestead's first game against Heritage held on the fields behind the Chapel. Meeks acts as one of team's captains. »

Tyler Keena
Writer

In its first year of existence, Homestead Club Lacrosse has gotten off to a relatively slow start with losses in their first two matches. Some players on the team have participated on other teams (such as Bishop Luers) in the past, yet several players on the team have never had the opportunity to play competitive lacrosse in the past due to the absence of a team at Homestead. With such inexperience, the road was expected to be rough.

The team lost its first game to Pike by a score of 11-3. The team's second game also resulted in a loss. The 14-4 loss to Heritage Christian was another tough loss to accept for the new team, but the team is improving and that is important to the club's success in the future.

"The scores of the games look pretty bad, but we didn't have our starting goalie," Brandon Landes (11) said.

Homestead's talented and more experienced starting goalie is Mike Donnell (9).

"The goalie is pretty important in lacrosse," Landes said. "It's a tough position to play and Mike is a really good goalie so it would have been really helpful to have him available for our first two games.

Lacrosse is in its first year as a club sport at Homestead, which means that the team does not receive funding directly from the school. However, because the team is a club sport, players such as Neil Bansal, a student and lacrosse player from Canterbury High School, are eligible to participate in the club.

"As a team, we are pretty inexperienced," Landes said. "But players with lacrosse experience from other schools have really helped. Most of our team didn't start playing until last summer so the players with playing experience helped the newer players like me develop the necessary skills to be a good lacrosse player."

Despite the inexperience, the team is coming along quickly and improving dramatically. With intense practices every week and team captains to lead and instruct other players, the team hopes to quickly start winning upcoming games.

"We have been practicing extremely hard to get ready for the season," Landes said. "We had a lot of things to get done before our first couple games. Now we have the in-game experience and this should help our team a lot."

Most of the players on the team started playing in the summer after falling in love with the sport that was just recently introduced to most high school students in the Southwest Allen County area.

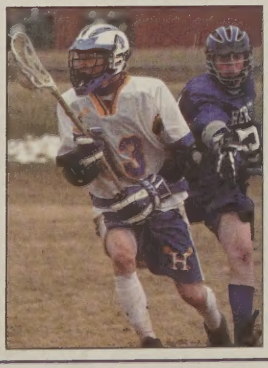
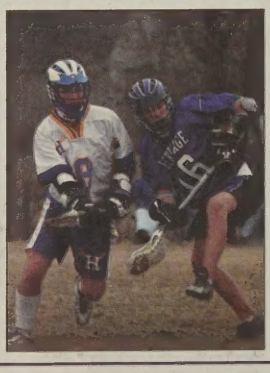
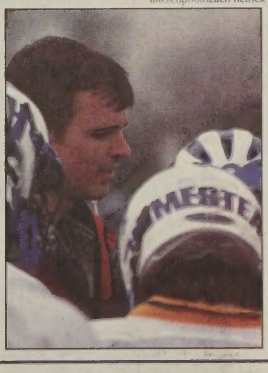
"I had heard of lacrosse before and knew the basics of the sport, but had never played before," Landes said. "But when I played I knew I wanted to join the team. There is so much action and adrenaline when you're on the field. You get a lot of bumps and bruises, but you hardly feel the hits when you're playing.

With only two games under their belt, the team will take a break until after spring break.

Important Dates for Lacrosse

BLOOMINGTON (H) APR. 16
CONCORD (A) APR. 16
B. CHATARD (H) APR. 23
PIKE (H) MARCH 19
HERITAGE (H) MARCH 19

altered photo/zach hetrick

Lacrosse team leaders follow proper protocol to establish club sport

Lee Farnsworth
Business Manager

It has been a long time coming, but the boys lacrosse team is finally recognized as a club sport team here at Homestead.

From starting out as members of the Bishop Luers team, to the lengthy process of getting their own team at Homestead, it has been a lengthy and difficult process for the group to become an official club sport team. The boys persisted and their enthusiasm and passion for the sport inevitably led to the creation of a Homestead team.

"We had to buy our own equipment and stuff initially," lacrosse team captain Ben Deschner (12) said, "we eventually got a team together through parent support and the persistence of the players."

The team has several members who have played lacrosse before, either on the Luers team or as part of a different program. The Homestead team benefits from this experience and is able to work on more advanced aspects of the game, rather than starting from square one. The team has also met with Coach Steve Collie who helped them tremendously in getting started and organized. They practice every day from 3:30 to 5:30 pm either at the Chapel's fields or an area on the Canterbury campus. Initially, the group did strength training exercises before moving on to ball handling and other drills. The team has come a long way, even with their past experience.

Now, in their first year as a club sport, the team participates in regularly scheduled matches and events. Although they will not be able to enter the playoffs their inaugural season, the group looks forward to participating next year.

The team also set up a stand at registration to recruit prospective members and they hope to start a program at the YMCA for middle school students this summer. By planting the seed early, the members hope that their sport will grow by leaps and bounds as new classes of middle school students who have been introduced to the game become eligible for the team during high school.

"In ten to fifteen years I can see us having a really good team," Deschner said. "I think that we'll be an actual varsity sport and not just a club sport eventually."

Other club sports at Homestead include rugby and bowling. Club sports are those for which there is a significant following of willing athletes, but for which there is no actual varsity team. Students who are interested in forming a club sport team should get organized and then talk to the administration about forming a team. Over the years, a chess and even ping-pong club have been suggested but are not currently present. These groups are great ways for students to get involved in activities such as chess and athletics which interest them.

For lacrosse, the goal of forming a recognized club team has been realized. The team moves closer to being accepted as an actual varsity sport, but for now it is content with its current status. They are focused mainly on playing, after all.

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the Spartana

Spring Cruise
Seniors take spring break cruise along Caribbean coast
p.8A

Volume 35 • Issue 12 • Homestead High School • 4310 Homestead Road, Fort Wayne, IN 46814 • April 29, 2005

SACS projected to lose $750,000 because of state senate's new funding formula

SACS funds begin to fall

Larry Buchanan
Surplus Editor

"We're dressing the poor kids in fur, while our students aren't even getting a coat?" was the quote of one unhappy Southwest Allen County Schools (SACS) parent at a meeting about upcoming budget problems that SACS and Northwest Allen County Schools (NACS) are going to have in years to come. The analogy is a little extreme; however, it does point out the fact that SACS is yet again losing state funding in the 'dollars per student' category.

Originally projected to be a loss of $1.5 million, the new estimate of monetary loss is close to $750,000.

"Again, SACS funding per child will dramatically decrease," stated superintendent Dr. Brian Smith at a parent meeting. "At this point, I would be happy with a zero percent increase [in funding]."

> "At this point, I would be happy with a zero percent increase [in funding]."
> -Dr. Brian Smith

In the complicated state funding formula, when a student transfers out of a school district, the district that the student transfers into doesn't get 100% of the money for that student. In fact, it takes three years for the school district the student transferred into to get the full 100% of the money, in order to educate that student. In the original formula, it took the school corporation five years to receive full funding for the student that transferred in. The revised version does give growing corporations the money for the student faster than it ever has before. Regardless, SACS parents still are not happy because the formula still gives the students old school district money even though they are not attending that district anymore.

This area of the formula is one area where SACS is getting hurt the worst. Because of the fact that enrollment in SACS schools is growing, they are not getting the additional money needed to educate those students. They are only getting a portion of it.

Another area where SACS ceases to receive funding frequently is in the complexity index. This area of the funding formula controls how much extra money schools get per child if the child falls into a number of categories such as the following: single parent homes, free and reduced lunches, poverty level income, or limited English proficiency. The majority of SACS students do not fall into these categories, and therefore fail to receive additional funding.

Also, due to the fact that SACS is a growing suburban school district and its students do not qualify for a majority of federal and state grants, the number of dollars per student that the corporation receives is decreasing.

At this point, no electives will be cut, but no additional staff will be hired, because with the allotted money, SACS cannot afford to hire more teachers. This, in turn, may increase class sizes.

"We can afford to build a new turf football field, but we can't afford to hire any new teachers?" a SACS parent asked Smith.

Smith explained that the school corporation has several different accounts such as the following: the transportation fund, which is used to maintain busses; the capital fund, which is used to build buildings (and football fields); and the debt service fund, which is used for bonded indebtedness. The general fund controls teacher salaries and benefits. This fund is controlled by the aforementioned funding formula and therefore is frozen. Money cannot be taken out of other accounts and moved.

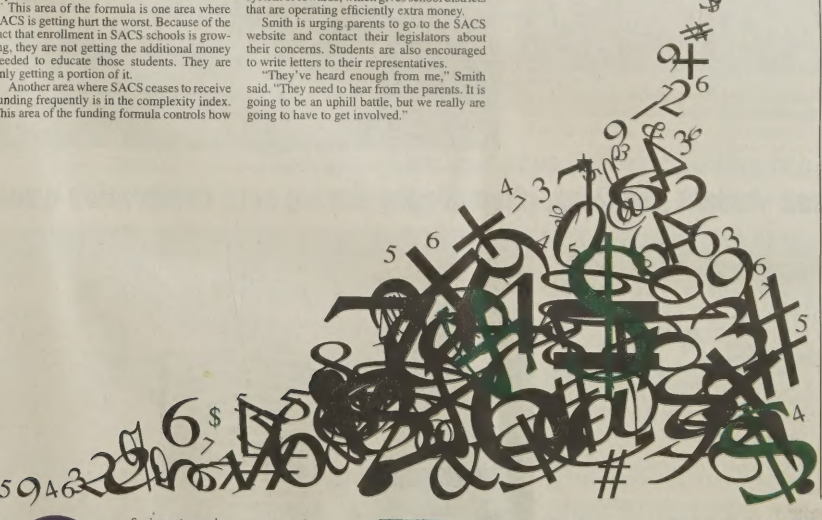
"I can build beautiful buildings, but I just can't afford to put staff in them," Smith said.

Smith, and school-board member John Blum both proposed that Senate and House legislators change the way that school systems are awarded additional dollars.

SACS Teacher Organization representative Mike Gorman proposed that the state have a system of rewards, which gives school districts that are operating efficiently extra money.

Smith is urging parents to go to the SACS website and contact their legislators about their concerns. Students are also encouraged to write letters to their representatives.

"They've heard enough from me," Smith said. "They need to hear from the parents. It is going to be an uphill battle, but we really are going to have to get involved."



Spanish teacher offers resignation for next year

Linda Damuth decides to pursue master's degree, other changes

photo/jessica bird

Damuth teaches during 7th period.

Kelly Childs
Writer

She started off playing pretend school as a child. When she was a senior in high school, she had the opportunity to teach a Spanish class to an elementary school, and now after three years at Homestead, her teaching career is being put on hold. Spanish teacher Linda Damuth has decided to resign from Homestead after the 2004-2005 school year.

"I want to begin working on my Masters Degree in Spanish," Damuth said. "I'll hopefully start that next fall and over the summer I would love to study abroad in Spain."

This desire for something new does not stem from Homestead, though. Damuth feels she has had the best experience possible teaching at Homestead and is sad to leave.

Outside of the classroom, she says she will miss attending sporting events and fine arts competitions. She will also miss chaperoning field trips. In her three years, she was able to go on the senior field trip to Cedar Point, as well as chaperon a few publication field trips. The pennies for patients game is another annual event that she will remember as a great Homestead experience.

Within the classroom, Damuth says she has had great memories with her students. One activity she especially liked was the real life skits students would act out. She felt this was a fun way for her students to get together to learn Spanish and enjoy it simultaneously.

Although she is about to embark on a new part of her life, she will not forget Homestead.

"I am going to miss the students and staff, especially the people I work with, because they've been so supportive of me," Damuth said. "As a first year teacher, they would always help me when I had questions. Everybody was ready to help me. They were lots of fun, very supportive, and they've been great."

Damuth admits her first year could have been a really bad experience and it is scary to move away from home, but she feels fortunate of the positive situation in which she was placed.

When she started looking for teaching jobs, she originally planned on staying in Michigan, her home state. She came to an interview at Homestead, however, and felt a good chemistry.

Three years later, she still feels this way about Homestead and says there is not a thing she will not miss.

"I know it sounds cliché, but there is nothing that I won't miss," Damuth said. "I think I've had a very great experience here. The administration and my department have been very supportive. I couldn't have asked to have worked in a better district."

Despite being content at this high school, Damuth offers several reasons for her resignation.

"I'm leaving for many reasons," Damuth said. "I decided I miss being near my family and friends in Michigan. I also want to begin working on a master's degree in Spanish. It feels like a time for change in my life. While I'm working on my masters I will hopefully be able to teach in Michigan."

Her time at Homestead has been satisfying and she would like to express her appreciation to those who helped it get that way.

"I would like to say thank you to everybody," Damuth said. "Thanks to the students, faculty, and everybody else for making my career here so great. Thanks for making this such a positive experience for me."

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S urplus

Check out issue six of the Surplus, which includes a Prom preview, a Panera food review, and a review on Jack Johnson's newest jams.

Musical performances, visual arts highlight annual spring arts week

Students break from daily routine to enjoy performances by Jazz Band, Orchestra, dance teams, show choirs

Dillon Kimmel
News Editor

On Tuesday, April 26, a convocation was held in the gymnasium in accordance with the Spring Arts Week celebration taking place April 21-30. Many Homestead-sponsored organizations and clubs performed, including the Class Royale, Elite, the orchestra, Jazz Band, and dance team.

The convocation took place in the morning. Two performances were done, one starting around 8:00 and the other around 9:30. Half the school attended one of the performances and half the other. Last year, the performances were done on two different days. Several members of those that performed said it was easier to get it out of the way in one day.

"I thought this convocation was better than last year because they incorporated it in one day," Paola Montesino said. "It took up too much class time last year. It was so much easier to get it over within a couple of hours."

> "I thought the convocation was a lot better than it was last year because they incorporated it into one day... It was so much easier to get it over within a couple of hours."
>
> Paola Montesino (12)

The orchestra led off the festivities with their performance. The orchestra, consisting of strings, brass, percussion, and woodwinds, performed three pieces. They were led by band director Brad Wadkins, who also helps direct the marching band.

Following the orchestra, the Elite choir performed their competition show. Their three selections were "Waiting for Tonight," "Soul with a Capital 'S'/ Attitude Dance," and "Music/ Wild Wild West/ Space Cowboy." Dressed in flashy, pink cowboy costumes, they performed three songs as well. Allison Douglas (10) performed a solo on the first song of their performance. Dr. Keith Touchton directs both Elite and Class Royale. The team had a good year, placing third at Zionsville and fourth at Dekalb.

"We had a much better season than last year," Montesino said. "Our highest placing was third this year. I think we really improved in pretty much every aspect."

Third, the jazz band performed. Guitars, saxophones, and trumpets highlighted this upbeat select band that performed three selections as well. The jazz band is directed by Steve Barber.

Class Royale performed a compressed version of their competition show fourth. Their first song was called "Music and the Mirror." The song is from the musical "A Chorus Line." Their second song, called "Ball in' the Jack," used styrofoam balls to accent the performance. Turning and twisting them every which way, the Class Royale put on a colorful spectacle with the balls. Kenneth Perkins (11) and Jaime Blosser (12) performed solos in their final song, called "On the Deck of a Spanish Sailing Ship." The show was based on Christopher Columbus and his struggle while searching for the New World. Trevor Alt (11) did back flips to end the show.

Finally, the dance team performed their state competition show. The JV squad performed first. The JV dance team received the highest placing in the school's history. The group has been headed up by Jennifer Bay for several years. Following them, the varsity squad performed their state competition. The group had a phenomenal year last year, winning the national competition in Orlando, Florida. The team continued its winning form in 2005, placing third in state in lyrical and their large ensemble won first place honors. The large ensemble wrapped up the convocation with their performance. The group consisted of Alex Kruse (11), Jenna Wise (9), Kelly Childs (11), Katie Johnston (12), and Adrienne Ahee (12). Students were dismissed to their first period classes following the conclusion of the event.

"The convocation was cool," Mike Salvador (10) said. "I didn't know what to expect but I was pleasantly surprised. Those students must have spent a lot of time preparing for a show of that caliber. It was really good, and I was pretty impressed. The talent level seemed a lot higher than it was last year. It kept me entertained for sure.

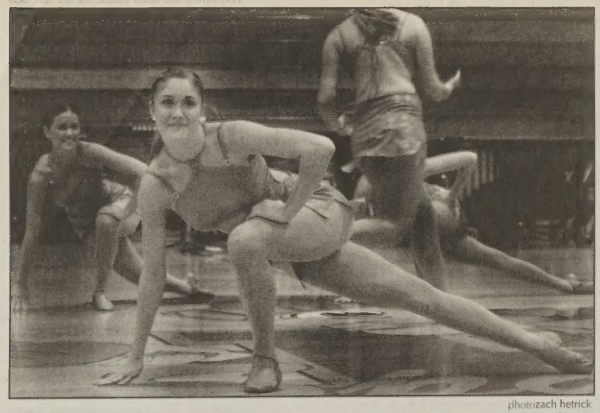
Along with the convocation on Tuesday, Spring Arts Week offered several other activities. A coffee house will be held today outside the community rooms from 7:00 to 11:00. Performers will include Chris Miller Band, English teacher Steve Clough (accompanied by other teachers), and Schwag. An art exhibit was also on display all week in the community room, displaying student submitted artwork. It was open to the public from 7:15-3:15. Tonight, the gallery will be open during the coffee house.

Upcoming fine arts events

April 29- Coffee House
April 29- Final day for Art Gallery
May 6,7,13,14- School musical
May 19- Show Choir Spectacular
May 20- Class Royale Gala

photozach hetrick

» Kenneth Perkins (11) performs his solo during Class Royale's ballad at the spring arts week convocation. Jaime Blosser (12) and Perkins performed the duet at several show choir competitions during Class Royale's competition season.



photozach hetrick

» Katie Johnston (12) performs with the varsity dance team during the spring arts week show while Leah Newcomb (12) dances in the background. Right: Hannah Corral (10) and Paul Marquissee (11) play the violin with the remainder of the orchestra. Both groups were well received by the students and staff members who attended the convocation.

photozach hetrick

Community rooms house student paintings, photography during arts celebration week

Kelly Childs
Writer

From April 25 through April 29 the community rooms at Homestead were transformed into an art gallery displaying original works of art by the students in art classes.

To prepare for this week, the art teachers had a lot to do. They arranged the community room by setting up display areas and hanging/ arranging the art work. They also had to send out announcements and select the artwork. Although teachers had the right to refuse art work, most of what was submitted was displayed. The teachers often requested certain pieces from their students as well.

According to Cindy Husar, the purpose of spring arts week is three-fold. One, the staff and students become more aware of the arts in general. Secondly, people become more aware of how many talented students are in the fine arts area. Lastly, students who have their work displayed get to experience a sense of pride in and recognition for their work.

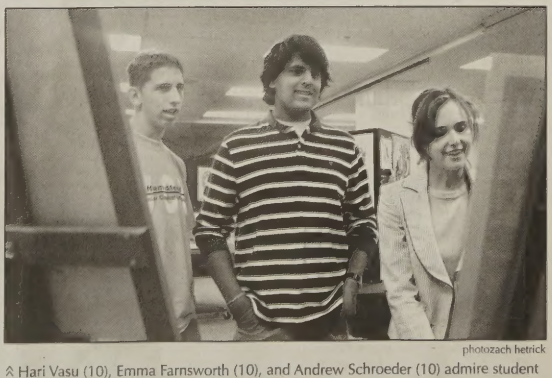
"The best part of spring arts week is seeing all of the work up, then watching students bring in their family and friends to show off their work," Husar said.

Some of the work exhibited included photographs, oil pastel paintings, wicker baskets, pottery, computer graphics, mobiles, pencil sketches, jewelry, and student-created videos. Some of the art work was even for sale. These items consisted of pottery, knitted hats and scarves, pencil sketches, photography, and jewelry. The art club was selling the jewelry, which they called "Macrame Jewelry Designs". They were hemp necklaces, bracelets, and anklets.

Throughout the week, students filed in and out of the gallery to observe their peers' creations. Some teachers took their classes to the exhibit, while other students stopped in for a glance during passing periods.

"I like coming to this because it gives me an opportunity to see the talent of other students," Meredith Denney (12) said. "I never realized how talented some of the people I pass in the hallway really are."

In previous years, members of the community have stopped by the temporary art gallery in the community rooms after school. Tonight, for example, students and parents are encouraged to visit the gallery while the National Honor Society holds its annual coffee house. Students and staff alike can enjoy music, coffee, and a taste of the artwork produced by students that is on display in the community rooms by the front commons.



photozach hetrick

» Hari Vasu (10), Emma Farnsworth (10), and Andrew Schroeder (10) admire student artwork in the art gallery, which was open all week long.

Spring arts week. 2A • Creationism in classrooms. 5A • Caddying. 7A • Spring break cruise. 8A
you are here ▲

Global Briefs

Ecuador

President Lucio Gutierrez was removed from office by Ecuador's lawmakers Wednesday and was replaced by Vice President Alfredo Palacio, after days of increasingly intense street protests. "The people of Ecuador, particularly the people of Quito, today have ended the dictatorship, the immorality, the great power, the terror of fear," Palacio told the Congress shortly after taking office.

Grading

At Daniels Farm Elementary School in Trumbull, Connecticut, Karwoski's teachers grade papers by giving examples of better answers for those students who make mistakes. But that approach meant the kids often found their work covered in red, the color that teachers long have used to grade work. Parents objected. Red writing, they said, was "stressful." The principal said teachers were just giving constructive advice and the color of ink used to convey that message should not matter. But some parents did not agree.

Filibusters

Senate Republicans are moving to strengthen support behind their effort to eliminate judicial filibusters after watching liberals push out TV ads against them in anticipation of a showdown over who sits on federal appeals courts. Sen. John Thune, R-South Dakota, spoke out against the efforts of Democrats and groups such as MoveOn.org and People for the American Way.

Mureder

After discovering 13-year-old Sarah Michelle Lunde missing, a six-day search for ended when searchers found her body partially submerged in a pond near her Florida home.

Hillsborough Sheriff David Gee said the pond at an abandoned fish farm will be drained Sunday and the surrounding area searched for possible evidence.

Space Shuttle

Two astronauts and a cosmonaut were launched on a two-day journey to the international space station by a Soyuz-FG rocket blasting off from Russia's Baikonur Cosmodrome. American John Phillips and Russian Sergei Krikalev will welcome NASA's space shuttle back to the orbiting lab after a two-year absence because of the Columbia disaster.

Soldier's Tribunal

An Army sergeant who said in his diary that his fellow soldiers were mistreating him was charged with a deadly grenade attack on his comrades. He also wrote that once he was sent to Iraq to fight, "I am going to try and kill as many of them as possible," a jury was told.

The Vatican

The Vatican is on guard for high-tech eavesdropping in on the conclave to elect a new pope. The Vatican imposed a media blackout on cardinals, and the church has made very uninformative statements on the cardinals' meetings up to now. Vatican observers say the church's security force is expected to repeatedly sweep the Vatican grounds for bugs and other gadgets before and during the secret meeting of the College of Cardinals in an effort to stay on top of the spying technology.

Dolphins

About 80 rough-toothed dolphins stranded themselves in the shallows off Marathon in the Florida Keys in early March. Working nonstop to help as many as they could to return to deep water, rescue workers and volunteers were able to help some dolphins make it, and only about two dozen died. Twenty-six of the dolphins clung to life and were transferred to the Marine Mammal Conservancy rehabilitation facility on Key Largo.

Britney Spears

Britney Spears continuities to make headlines as she and her husband, Kevin Federline, announced that she is pregnant and UPN announced that on May 17 the couple's reality show will premiere. A special one-hour episode will begin the new series that is not yet titled. It will follow their courtship, engagement and wedding through private home videos, mostly shot by the couple with their own camera.

briefsjim katz

Annual spring arts week to close with National Honor Society sponsored coffee house

Coffee Talk

Jessica Bird
Writer

Annually, Homestead promotes the arts through Spring Arts Week. During Spring Arts Week, students are given the opportunity to illustrate their artistic ability by putting their artwork on display. Along with visual art, Spring Art Week brings along with it the National Honor Society sponsored coffee house. The coffee house is a time for students to enjoy coffee and listen to local bands. The coffee house will be on April 29, with coffee from Espresso Gallery.

Committees, run by National Honor Society members, were formed to put on the Coffee House. These committees consisted of two or three people. Music is the main attraction for the Spring coffee house, aside from the coffee. Anyone who comes is able to buy coffee and listen to music while enjoying time with friends.

"There will be a lot of student bands performing this year," NHS member, Luke Gilpin (11) said. It will be mostly chill music with a little rock."

The main objective of the Spring coffee house is to promote the arts through music. Any profit made, goes to the National Honor Society fund. The cost and profit, however, usually end up even.

"I'm excited to hang out with my friends [at the Spring coffee house]," Chelsea Vickerman (11) said. "I went last year and the music was pretty good. I'm really happy that the school lets students express themselves through musing during Spring Arts week."

During the fall coffee house, due to miscommunication, the coffee was late in arriving to the school. After fixing the situation, Espresso Gallery was able to make the delivery. Espresso Gallery also gave the school discounts for this year's Spring coffee house.

"I want the coffee to be on time this time," Julia Haller (11) said. "If it does get there on time, I think people would have a better time than last time. I think that there would be a better attendance if it was held in a more accessable location."

The coffee house will be held tonight in the front commons. All students and community members are welcome at attend. Visual art will also be on display in the community rooms.

Second concert for orchestra

Katie Corson
Writer

The month of April offers routines; Spring Break, warmer weather, flowers, and of course the Spring orchestra concert.

This year the concert was held on Tuesday, April 19th, at 7 p.m. The orchestra, which consists of about 50 students, began preparing their music for the concert back in the fall.

"We had our first concert in the fall, and right after that we started working on our music for the spring," cello player Tatienne Lipsey (11) said.

The orchestra also competed at ISSMA on Friday, April 22nd at Snider High School. Many members of the orchestra also competed in the solo and ensemble competitions at ISSMA.

Lipsey, who started playing cello six years ago in middle school, has competed at ISSMA numerous times over the years. Besides playing with the full orchestra, she will also compete with her ensemble.

Besides preparing for the upcoming concert and competition about 30 students from the orchestra also performed with the Fort Wayne Philharmonic last month.

"The conductor came in and anyone who was interested auditioned," Lipsey said. "We had one rehearsal with the Philharmonic that day, and then the concert. It was a very exciting experience."

At the Spring Concert, two of the three pieces the orchestra played were also performed by the Philharmonic.

"In the spring, we usually do at least one piece that the Philharmonic is also performing," Lipsey said.

Unlike some high schools, the orchestra has members from each grade level, which means many different talent levels.

"I think having one big group is a good thing. I think it really helps beginners, but you just have to work hard," Lipsey said. "I learned a lot my freshman year. I had to work very hard because I did not want to let the upperclassmen in the orchestra down."

If students did not get a chance to catch the spring concert on the 19th, they were able to hear the orchestra perform during fine arts week. That same week the orchestra visited a couple of elementary schools to perform for them as well.

So with the spring concert, ISSMA competition, and fine arts week, director Brad Watkins and the orchestra have enough to keep busy.

photozach hetrick

Tatienne Lipsey (11) plays the cello during a performance. The orchestra performed for the entire school on Tuesday.

Students enjoy half days during conferences

Parents meet with teachers; discuss student grades, behavior

Lee Farnsworth
Business Manager

Parent-teacher conferences: the phrase instills fear in most students. These dreaded conferences happened on April 14th and 15th and were the reason for two consecutive school days half their normal length.

Although the half days provided a welcome respite for studnets, teachers had to stay after school in order to conduct the conferences. Students were able to enjoy the days off and many used the time to catch up with friends, work on homework, or simply relax.

Contrary to popular perception, however, parent-teacher conferences are not always negative. Parents can request conferences simply to meet their student's teachers and discuss things with them. Other reasons for conferences do include an analysis of a students' grades and strategies to create an environment in which the student can succeed.

Norene Arnold, mother of freshman Nick Arnold, set up a conference with Nick's core class teachers.

"I just wanted to meet his teachers and introduce myself to them," Norene Arnold said. "I thought it would be a good way for me to see what his teachers are like."

This motive for setting up a conference is common among parents. Many times a conference is established simply to talk about a student rather than to discuss a serious problem.

The conferences took place on Thursday, April 14th and Friday, April 15th. The parents of students met with their students' teachers in order to discuss grades, strategies for the future, address concerns of the parents, and talk about any other aspect of a student's high school life.

Generally, teachers felt that the conferences were productive, and most agree that they were beneficial. The hope is that these conferences will set students up for success for the rest of the year. By discussing ways to improve student performance and increase a students productivity, the parents and teachers will hopefully be able to set students up for success.

Another benefit of the conferences is that they force students to be held accountable for their grades and work in school. Students are forced to face the realities of their grades and they are further forced to be honest and up-front about school with their parents. This promotes increased responsibility on the part of the students in order to make sure their grades are at the level they should be. Students know that they have to be honest with their parents about school or face the consequences when conferences come around.

Overall, conferences provide a means for parents to become more involved in their child's education and create opportunities for improvement.

Symphonic, concert bands perform in auditorium

Laura Summers
Writer

The Spring Concert took place last week in the auditorium, featuring both the concert and symphonic bands, along with the orchestra and winterguard.

The bands had been preparing for this performance, as well as the ISSMA competition since mid-January. The concert band is made up of freshmen and sophomores and directed by Brad Wadkins. Symphonic band consists of all juniors and seniors along with some talented freshmen and sophomores. It is directed by Steve Barber. The music the symphonic band plays is more advanced than that of the concert band.

The bands prepared three songs each to perform at the spring concert. The concert band chose to perform "Americans We", by Henry Fillmore; "Sonus Ventorum", by Claude T. Smith; and "Music for Winds and Percussion", by Elliot A. Del Borgo.

Sophomore Stefani Walker, a flute player, commented on the three pieces.

"My favorite song is 'Music for Winds and Percussion,"' Walker said. "It has a really different sound unlike any other I have played. I thought it was a crowd favorite at the concert and I think the judges will really like it at ISSMA."

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>
> -Stefani Walker (10)

Also last weekend, headed to Snider where they performed at the ISSMA Competition. They competed at division level 3, meaning the songs they performed were at the third difficulty level. They received a Gold rating for the performances, which is the best rating a band can acquire.

The orchestra also performed at the spring concert. Members of either band can choose to be in orchestra as well. Earlier this year, some members of the orchestra had the opportunity to perform alongside the Fort Wayne Philharmonic. They will surely do well at ISSMA this year.

The winterguard also performed their stateworthy show at the spring concert. It was a final showcase of the guard's talents. Members of guard who chose not to do winterguard also did a small performance.

Overall, last week was busy for the members of band and guard.

SACS' Budget Crisis, 2A • NHS Coffee House 3A • Creationism 5A • Senior Spring Break, 8A •

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Sunlight's benediction

Tanning with precautions provides health benefits that should not be overlooked

Neil Shah
Writer

When the warmer months roll around, no one can miss the overwhelming presence of darker, tanner, more attractive skin. Everyone wants to get a tan, as they are unhappy with the pasty skin that results from the cold, less intense sunlight of the long winter months. Tanning can be dangerously unhealthy; however, exposure to sunlight has many medical benefits that should not be overlooked as well.

The functional ingredient of sunlight that is responsible for both the harmful and beneficial effects of it is ultraviolet (UV) light. As you might remember from science class, ultraviolet light is the kind of light that is just beyond the visible spectrum and has more energy than visible light. Biologically speaking, ultraviolet rays catalyze, or speed up, the release of melanin, the skin's pigment, by melanocytes, cells that create melanin. The purpose of melanin is to absorb the harmful radiation of sunlight in order to prevent damage to the rest of the body by that radiation - it acts like a sun umbrella for the rest of the body that would be harmfully affected by ultraviolet light. Melanin is responsible for the darkening of skin, and the darkness of the skin is directly related to the amount of the pigment in the skin. This phenomenon explains why people from regions of intense sunlight are darker than people from regions of less intense sunlight.

Tanning can be harmful when the skin becomes sunburned. Sunburn occurs when the UV exposure exceeds the protective capacity of the melanin of the skin and is obvious with reddening and later peeling. Although the burn itself is uncomfortable and easily treated with lotion, the major danger is the increased future risk of skin cancer. When the skin burns, the skin cells' DNA is damaged, and the damaged DNA can be passed on to future generations of skin cells and can lead to an abnormal growth of mutated skin cells, or skin cancer. Sunburn poses an extremely serious risk of skin cancer, so proper protection should always be used when tanning. Tans can still be developed through the protection of sunscreen lotions, which are typically effective with a Sun Protection Factor (SPF) of 15 or greater.

As long as UV rays are taken in moderation with the protection of a sunscreen, myriad benefits can be enjoyed by the tanner. For one, the skin produces vitamin D naturally when exposed to sunlight. This vitamin is crucial to the body's ability to process calcium. In effect, this vitamin D production indirectly prevents the onset of osteoporosis, a disease which results when the body does not process calcium optimally. Sunscreens with SPF 8 or higher, however, significantly hinder the skin's ability to produce vitamin D when exposed to sunlight. Dermatologists point out that this vitamin D production can take place when people are not spending extended periods of time in the sun, like while walking outside or while driving on a sunny day, and therefore the sunscreen's prevention of its production should not be a factor. Another benefit is prevention of and therapy for Seasonal Affective Disorder, a psychological disorder also known as the "winter blues." People with this condition often find the winter months gloomy and lose general contentment and productivity; sunlight and the warmer months make them feel better and they become more productive. Other benefits include reduction of symptoms of premenstrual syndrome, establishing a strong biological clock, and reduction of jet lag.

> Other benefits include reduction of symptoms of premenstrual syndrome, establishing a strong biological clock, and reduction of jet lag.

Tanning can be beneficial to one's health as long as certain precautions are taken. Sunscreen should always be used, and no one should spend prolonged periods of time in direct sunlight. Also, natural sunlight is preferable over artificial sunlight in tanning beds. Many of the medical benefits mentioned earlier cannot be enjoyed through the artificial sunlight of a tanning bed, and the close proximity of the source of UV rays is also unhealthy. So, when you're outside getting those UV rays for which you have longed all winter, keep those few precautions in mind to enjoy a healthy tanning experience.

Neil Shah is a senior and works as a writer for the Spartana. *The views and opinions expressd in this column do not necessarily represent those of* the Spartana *or of its staff.*

Quick Facts

- *The quality of the tan depends upon the type of bulbs used in the booths.*
- *Tanning increases your risk of getting skin cancer.*
- *You can only go to the taning bed for a maximum of 20 minutes.*
- *Stand up tanning salons are able to tan the customer's body more completly than the normal tanning booths.*

Katie Beck (12) and Molly Jorgensen (12) tan on a beach over Spring Break. The benefits of tanning are often overlooked.

'Minutemen' should not be held responsible for illegal immigration

The government needs to solve this problem

Lee Farnsworth
Business Manager

During the days of our country's infancy, the minutemen were a sort of "on call" militia, who slept with guns at their side, prepared to defend our newly independent nation during a British attack.

Now, along the Arizona-Mexico border, the term "minutemen" takes on an very different meaning. A group of volunteers organized by retired accountant and Vietnam War veteran Jim Gilchrist is armed and patrolling the border in an attempt to curb illegal immigrant crossings.

The government has ordered the minutemen, who are armed, to merely follow and point out illegal immigrants to federal agents. The minutemen have been accused of taking the law into their own hands, of going too far. The problem however, is not theirs, it is the government's. The government has failed to acknowledge the severity of the problem of illegal immigration into the United States over the Mexican border. Last year alone 1,100,000 illegal immigrants were caught by the U.S. Border Patrol, but many were successful in their attempt to enter America illegally. The U.S. border patrol is severely undermanned and is simply not able to deal with the problem. Funds for the agency are also lacking. True, the government does increase funding to the agency every so often in order to appear as though they are adressing the situation, but these small increases do very little in actuality. And so, the nearly five hundred volunteers which comprise the minutemen have started to "assist law enforcement" along the Arizona border. The border accounted for 52 percent of the crossings last year and is especially busy during the month of April. The minutemen took up positions along a forty-mile stretch of land to help with the increase during April. In the end however, the problem comes back to the government.

The government does admit that there is an immigration problem at the U.S.-Mexico border, however they fail repeatedly to do anything about it. President Bush and Mexican President Vincente Fox seem to agree that the minutemen are "vigilantes", but they can't seem to agree on a solution to the problem. Perhaps these volunteers wouldn't feel the need to take action if they saw any signs of progress or solutions to the problem from their government. There are minor increases in patrolmen along the border, but that doesn't seem to help. The border security has gotten so bad that the deputy secretary of the Department of Homeland Security testified to the Senate Intelligence Committee that al-Qaida figureheads have suggested the U.S.-Mexico border as a possible means to enter the U.S. The border's insecurity is a major problem that needs to be dealt with immediately. When the security of our nation is threatened by the lack of security at the U.S.-Mexico border. In comparison I'd say that a group of "minutemen," however over-zealous, is the least of the government's worries. Our government has a responsibility to both American and Mexican citizens to improve the immigration process and deal with the problem of illegal immigration. Mexican citizens have a right to pursue the freedoms and opportunities America has to offer, but they don't have the right to pursue them illegally. The government however, isn't meeting them half way. The government has a responsibility to all citizens American and Mexican that they have so far neglected. It's time now for the government to look at itself closely and stop shifting the blame or making scapegoats out of these minutemen. When that happens, let's hope progress can finally be made.

Lee Farnsworth is a freshmen and works as the Business Manager for the Spartana. *The views and opinions expressd in this column do not necessarily represent those of* the Spartana *or of its staff.*

Local gas stations are to blame for skyrocketing prices

Tim Clark
Writer

Driving by the gas pumps these days is about as painful as hitting yourself in the head with a baseball bat. Well, maybe it's not quite that literal, but stopping to fill up your ride is definitely going to burn a hole in your wallet. Prices these days are topping out from anywhere around $2.09 to $2.39 a gallon for regular unleaded. That is way up from a few years ago when gas was still right around a dollar. But now we are hearing that this is only the beginning, that this isn't over yet. Not too scared? Well, when you start paying $3.00 a gallon as forecasted in the next year or two, you might start screaming bloody murder. Fact of the matter is, gas prices are not going down, and we know that. But what I do not understand and find wrong with gas stations these days is that they feel the need to gouge motorists. Gouge you say?

What is my reasoning? Well, when you raise your gas prices 10 to 30 cents and then drop them back down to the original price within 24 hours, I would say that is gouging. This is not an uncommon practice around Fort Wayne either. I have witnessed specifically the BP in Coventry and at the corner of Amber Rd. and U.S. 24, along with the Marathon at Coventry, do this multiple times within the last month. Most recently I witnessed a similar setting happen over a period of time from April 11th to April 13th. Monday afternoon (April 11th) a gallon of gas was marked at $2.04 at the Marathon in Coventry. Tuesday evening, driving home from work gas was now marked at $2.17 a gallon. However by Wednesday afternoon (April 13th) gas was back down to the original $2.04 a gallon. Now even the most common person can tell that a raise of 13 cents in about 24 to 48 hours and then back down again is nothing more than the gas stations trying to rip you off.

What really gets me though is this: when the price oil, per barrel, is raised, it takes almost a month for that oil to be refined and then shipped to various gas stations. So why the raise in prices at the slightest hint of a raise? It's not like we get a break later once they've made up enough of a reserve of money to stay in the black after that more expensive oil has arrived. Some people ask why we do not drill more oil up north. Why should we? We are already shipping oil from the Alaskan Pipeline to Japan. Why send more of the oil we could make to other countries when the profits we make do not even go back into lowering gas prices?

It all whittles down to greed. From the highest part of the government to the lowest of gas stations, greed is what it seems to be all about. Besides the "3 cents off" a gallon coupons you can commonly get for most every gas station, what else do they do to try and help out the average American motorist?

The government needs to do a better job of cracking down on stations that gouge motorists. They did a good job of it right after 9/11 when it was evident that gas stations gouged the public in a panic. Why can't they do it now when it is obvious that gas stations are doing nothing to help motorists? Why can't we get a decent break on gas every now and then? Our government has chosen to put the issue of outrages pump prices in the back seat. Things can be done. The government just doesn't want to. You ask, why don't they? Greed my friend; greed is what it's all about.

Tim Clark is a junior and works as a writer for the Spartana. *The views and opinions expressd in this column do not necessarily represent those of* the Spartana *or of its staff.*

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Conservative push to teach creationism alongside evolution elicits discussion

Suhasini Bhargava
Co-Editor in Chief

No, creationism, which is the "belief in the literal interpretation of the account of the creation of the universe and of all living things related in the Bible" as defined by *The American Heritage Dictionary of the English Language* should not be taught in science classrooms. Why? Creationism is not science. Why can evolution be taught? Well, evolution is science.

Biology curricula changed throughout the country in 1925 when the Tennessee law banning the teaching of evolution was challenged in the Supreme Court case *Tennessee v. John Scopes*. In support of evolution teacher Scopes, defense attorney Clarence Darrow convinced the court that teaching evolution in public classrooms is constitutional. Today, according to *Smithsonian* magazine's April 2005 issue, critics of evolution argue that creationism should be taught alongside evolution in science classrooms.

Undoubtedly, a public classroom is no venue for the education of creationism. The purpose of biology is to explain the operations of life as observed by the scientific method. Although a vast majority of students at this high school may practice religions that promote creationism, the biology curriculum should not include a unit on creationism. Time wasted on studying creationism could be used for exploring other sciences. Clearly, evolution is the only theory on the origin of human beings that has been scientifically tested and remains the only theory that has a scientific basis; therefore, creationism should not be explored in science classrooms when evolution is introduced to students. If creationism were taught in classrooms, other theories on the origin of species would have to be catered to as well. Simply stated, the responsibilities of biology curricula do not lie in exploring all concocted theories on the origin and development of species. Instead, the purpose of a science classroom is to teach science. This issue does not necessarily concern the separation between church and state; the issue concerns whether non-scientific theories should be taught in science classrooms.

Josh Zurawski
Co-Editor in Chief

In 1925, John Scopes was fined $100 for teaching evolution. In today's world, 80 years later, our society is more likely to convict a teacher for teaching creationism. Our nation has always believed in separation of church and state, and more so than ever. Postings of the Ten Commandments are being protested, the "In God We Trust" on our currency is taking heat, and judges are ruling against their own ideologies in favor of separation.

Schools should teach creationism, but not just the Christian views on creationism. Evolution does not explain how the tiniest microcosm began - the theory only guesses that inert chemicals somehow sparked life. Depending on the creationist, their theory only guesses that a higher being created the tiniest microcosm, or in an extreme sense, that a higher created humans.

Creationism should be taught in biology classes only as a means to fill in the blanks, a way to suggest what could have happened to start life. As long as the teacher is not forcing the idea that creationism is the only possibility as the beginning of earth, no harm is done. The material should be presented as "this is a possibility" and not as "this is fact." Students should never be forced to believe religious views, but they should acknowledge its scientific possibility.

The line has to be drawn though. Creationism should not be taught to contradict evolution. Since evolution is based on scientific fact, and so is biology, evolution takes precedence over creationism. If new scientific facts arise that fill in the blanks in the evolution theories, then the creationism filler should be replaced entirely. Currently, however, enough evidence has not been provided by scientific theories to completely contradict the theory of creationism. Providing an alternative hypothesis about the origin of species allows to students to have varied perspectives. School owe their students a well-rounded opinion.

Teachers would have the responsibility to aware students of creationism without forcing it down their throats or calling it fact. Students would have the responsibility of maturely accepting creationism just as a possibility. If an atheist doesn't believe creationism possible, he or she should still accept the idea as a possibility, because we do not know how the earth began. We should give all of the major theories a chance.

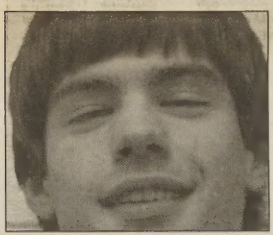
Christy Landrigan
Surplus Editor

In recent years, the line separating church and state has been drawn, challenged, erased, and redrawn to the point that it seems to move depending on the topic of question. The simple way of stating this rules is that no religion should be endorsed by any government institution, including publicly funded schools. Teaching only a Christian theory along with a scientific one (and ignoring other religious creation theories) in a public institution definitely constitutes an endorsement.

Creationism has nothing to do with science; therefore, we should not teach it in science classes. If we teach creationism, it would belong in almost any classroom except those that teach what some consider the opposing view of evolution. Evolution is a scientific theory; creationism is a theological one. Because of the religious nature of this theory, I see no reason for it to be taught in a science class, although I think it is beneficial to students if the issue of creationism is addressed.

The religious, Biblical view of creation is one that nearly all students will encounter in their lifetimes, whether the student be Christian or not, and being made aware of its differing explanations compared to scientific theory simply aids students in becoming well-rounded, educated individuals who are aware of the world in which they live. Christianity remains the religion of the majority, so being made aware in an unbiased manner of a form of its teachings could be an aid to students who would otherwise be ignorant of them; however, I feel it is necessary to acknowledge other religions' creation theories as well.

I believe that when more than one explanation of an issue is introduced and explored, students are taught to be more critical thinkers, wary of subscribing blindly to one belief without well supported reasoning. As long as students are left to decide freely which theory (if either) they choose to accept as closer to truth, I see no problem with the discussion of creationism along with evolution. In fact, discussing the issues is positive, but teaching creationism is inappropriate in public schools.



Dillon Kimmel
News Editor

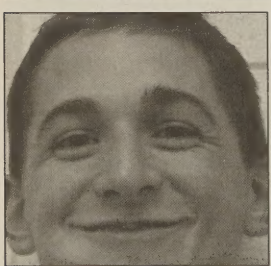
I believe in Creationism. I have been brought up to believe that God created the world in six days and rested on the seventh. I believe that man was made in the likeness of God and women were made so man could have a companion. That put, I still do not think creationism belongs within the school walls.

Separation of church and state says that religion has no place in school and that is what creationism is. It is no more than the book of Genesis. It is not a science, but rather a theological teaching. Creationism itself is no more than a scientific known given to a theological principle.

Evolution, on the other hand, is a science. It is based on scientific reasoning that suggests organisms evolved over time. It was developed by scientists for scientific purposes. It has been taught in schools for decades without creationism being taught alongside it, and I don't see a reason for it to change now. I believe in creationism but I also believe it should stay within the church walls; not for any other reason except that laws forbid them from interfering. Teaching creationism in schools is clearly unconstitutional.

Just as evolution should not be taught during church service, creationism should not be taught in school. I wouldn't expect my pastor to get up on the pulpit and start preaching about how organisms evolved over billions and billions of years. It just wouldn't happen. I would be equally surprised if I walked into biology my freshman year and the teacher started telling the class about Adam and Eve. I don't imagine that would be accepted in a secular school.

I would have no problem with learning about creationism because I believe in it, but the others in this school who do not share the same belief as me would be very offended by it, I would imagine. If we teach our kids about the Christian belief, then we must also teach them the Muslim, Hindu, and Buddhists philosophies on how the Earth began. Evolution does not intrude on any religious beliefs; therefore I believe it alone should be taught in school.



Matt Anderson
Sports Editor

In a time when the Ten Commandments are not allowed to simply be displayed in a court house, I don't see how a public school system could justify teaching creationism in juxtaposition with evolution in a classroom setting.

In a country based around our freedoms, and freedom of religion one of the biggest, how could anyone argue that teaching children creationism is fair or correct without also teaching all other perceived possible events that led to the world's first beginnings? No public school system can agree to presenting any one religious or personal belief without presenting all others to students.

Evolution can be taught because it is a scientifically believed, and evidence backed theory that students should be aware of, but beyond that, there are no physically backed theories that can be supported. Creationism, although believed by many, is based upon faith that it is real, and is only accepted by certain religious groups. So, unless we are going to allow equal time for all theories based upon faith, bunches, or guesses to be taught in schools, there is no room for creationism in the classroom.

God is a powerful force, but a force that needs to be kept out of the schools. Teachers and educational systems need to stick to generally accepted scientific beliefs, and keep the preaching to the holy establishments. I know that if I were a non-Christian student in a public classroom being told about God and how he created the Earth, the stars, and every other piece of matter I would feel intimidated and not want to continue taking the class. In my opinion, no student should ever be put in a situation where because of his or her beliefs they feel they are being pressured into believing something they do not, and because of that have their learning process interrupted.

Another important fact to remember is that biology is a required course so every student must take it. It's not like a student chose to take "Differing Opinions and Religious Perspectives 101," but rather was forced to attend the class.

So, I would maybe consider having creationism taught in public schools if the class it was being taught in was an elective and not a mandatory course. At least that way students could avoid the class.

If the United States wants to remain a place known for freedom and open policies, evolution needs to remain the staple in classroom science lectures, and creationism should be left on the sidelines.

Government branches over-stepped bounds, powers during the Bush Administration

In the past decade the United States government has overcome huge obstacles to the progress and maintenance of the nation as a whole. However, in recent months, problems with the critical checks and balances have been brought to the forefront of society by unusual and relevant conflicts. The two most striking examples of these problems are certainly in the recent action of the Congress to "save" the life of Teri Schiavo; in which a new set of rights was granted to a single family and in House Majority Leader Tom Delay's comments suggesting that the judicial branch needs to be more responsive to the will of the people.

In the case of Teri Schiavo the original conflict was based in the "right to life" and "right to die" argument. For nearly a decade Schiavo had been kept alive through the political and judicial working of her family. Her husband fought passionately to grant her "peace," which he claimed was her wish. Nearly a month ago, the family lost their final appeal to grant their daughter continued life through a feeding tube. All was finally coming together, and the judicial system had apparently followed through its entire recourse of operations, when a miracle apparently occurred.

On March 19, 2005, this miracle easily passed both houses of Congress that effectively changed the jurisdiction of a court proceeding and the human rights of an individual. At roughly 1:10 A.M., President Bush (who had flown into the Capital to await the act) signed the document into law. The law gave Teri Schiavo the right to have her case be transferred from state court jurisdiction to federal court jurisdiction. This was a blatant violation of the division of power and the checks and balances system. This act of congress was no less than a clear demonstration of congressional lack of interest in working to preserve the founding father's vision for the structure of our government.

This example was not the first example of the government branches overstepping their bounds in pursuit of their political objectives. In recent history there noticeable examples of this overstepping; the executive branches' handling the 2000 election, the patriot act, and the swift entrance into a war with Iraq in February 2003.

In addition to House Majority Leader Tom Delay's charges of ethic violations, he has also been under fire for his comments regarding what he believes are out of control judges. He is part of a growing group of Americans who have returning to the phrase of "activist" judges. This is the term used by opponents of the civil rights movement. It is not only reminiscent of the past, but telling of where we are headed.

Through the increasing effects of the Teri Schiavo relief bill, and the ever-growing controversy regarding the conservatives behind House Majority Leader Tom Delay's ethics and his judicial comments, our government is on a slick slope, which could quickly develop into the destruction of the checks and balances. **Editorial Board Vote: 3 for, 2 against.**

the editorial review

Is the media more interested in attracting viewers rather than presenting information?

Media continues to present fair, relevant information to viewers

Austin Hetrick
Writer

What is it that keeps a government honest to the public? Who holds this ever-growing monster in check and accountable for its actions? For that matter, who is it that first discovers corporate wrongdoing, or problems with our role models, inspires us with tales of heroism, in short, exposes both the good and the bad in the world today? The single answer is the media, in every form; a community of journalists that has protected, aided, and enlightened the public of the world since the first century B.C. and continues to do so today with ever increasing accuracy and effectiveness.

Nearly 100 years ago, the media was barely taking root in the United States. It took an active and innovative approach to news to finally spark the modern media revolution which is causing some problems today. The tradition of investigative journalism can trace its roots to this turning point, where the journalists of the time identified, discovered, and brought to light through novels, journals, and daily newspaper entries the problems with industrial America. Perhaps the most striking example of this first investigative journalism was the work of the "muck-rakers," named for their talent at exposing the "muck" and cruel conditions associated with powerful industries of the early 20th century.

These first investigators established a tradition of journalism as a profession of "watchdogs" who fight for even the smallest infringement of human rights. This tradition can be found throughout American history, from the coverage of the Civil Rights Movement in the 1960s, through the battle with the government for the truth during the Vietnam War. During the 1970s, investigative journalism took the media into an even more critical role, when the *Washington Post*'s Woodward and Bernstein managed to hold the president himself accountable for his actions through publication of their reports on the Watergate scandal.

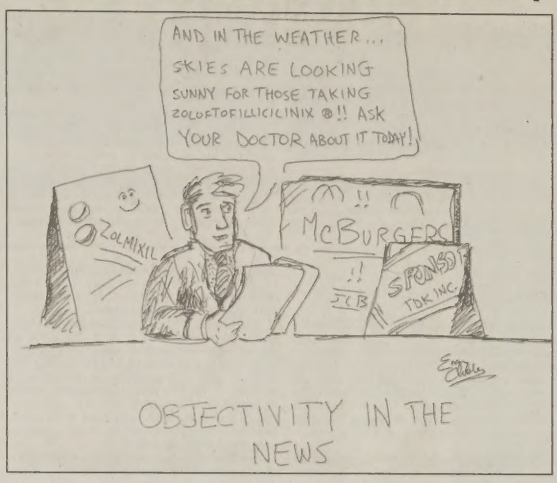
Today, this role of the media as "watchdogs" continues with ever-increasing authority and effectiveness. Many, however, have forgotten why the media is necessary, and have lost themselves in journalism's increasing concentration on events that are not always the most important, but perhaps the most interesting. What must be recognized is that journalism, like any profession, relies on the success of its product, and thus we must accept the attention on events that are not truly relevant to the population in exchange for the vital services which the media still provides for the public.

The fact is, without the media to alert the public of events and changes in the government and world, the truth about certain actions of those in power would never be known, and they would never be held accountable. Without this critical "watchdog," the public would be at the mercy of those in power to use their judgment at all times, and as time has proved, a system unchecked and unwatched will become corrupt eventually.

News today is still delivered on the front page, at five o'clock by television reporters, and hourly on radio stations. And despite the wasted time spent on such stupidity as the Michael Jackson case, the majority of news time remains on important issues and the public's understanding of the truth. This understanding is often damaged by "analysts" on television, and this increasing trend of semi-biased news is troubling, but the public must see through the analyses to the actual reporting, which is why other news sources and forms of reporting remain available today.

In the coming century, it is foreseeable that America will change dramatically, and face challenges which we cannot begin to fathom at this point. Among the things that will not change is the force and face of journalism today, which will continue to pursue investigative journalism. Through reporting and analysis, journalists will expose corruption, and fight to display the truth to the public, as they have done for centuries. Despite the problems and growing distractions associated with the media, journalists still serve a vital purpose, and will continue to do so.

Austin Hetrick is a sophomore and works as a writer for the Spartana. *The views and opinions expressed in this column do not necessarily represent those of* the Spartana *or of its staff.*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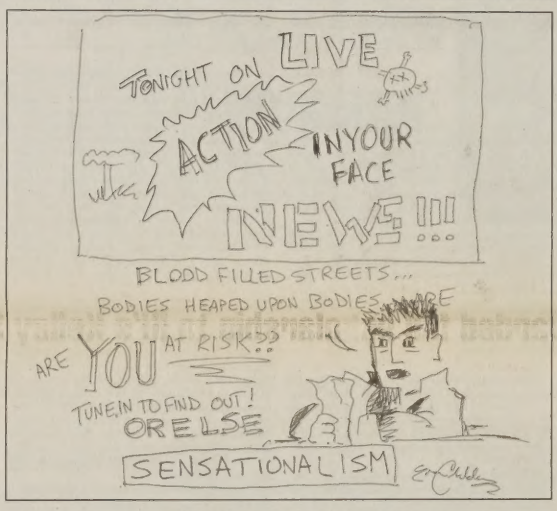
OBJECTIVITY IN THE NEWS



Student Input

"To a certain extent the media cares more about ratings than media content, but with so many sources out there, it is easy to get a balanced scope."
John Greco (12)

"Well, obviously the media is biased. Because different news stations are known for being Democratic or Republican and being a Democrat I am persuaded to watch stations like ABC instead of stations like FOX."
Jon Kolhoff (10)

The scope of coverage is far too narrow; media is not reliable

Jim Katz
Writer

The role of media is a simple yet demanding: to provide the masses of uninformed citizens with factual information about recent events, thus making the audience informed.

This function of educating the citizens is one vital to the creation and continuation of a representative government. In American history, the media has played an essential role in the development of American culture and politics. While the media has, during its history, been able to maintain a certain level of journalistic integrity, in recent years, there has been a trend which deviates from the media's role.

One problem the media has is its tendency to be excessively myopic. Despite the number of important stories going on at one time, the media often focuses on only one story, a story that may or may not be worthy of the attention it receives. Take the Terri Schaivo controversy for example. The issue on whether or not to pull the feeding tubes of a brain dead woman consumed the media and, therefore, the nation for weeks. There was not a news program on television, or newspaper in print that did not have constant updates, interviews, and coverage of what should have been a quiet, family issue. Then, after Schaivo died, the coverage of the Pope's death eradicated any memory, on the media's part, of the Schaivo case.

Another problem that media has is the consumers' trend toward alternative, and much less reliable sources on information. One such example would be "The Daily Show with Jon Stewart," which is a spoof news show aired daily on Comedy Central. Though "The Daily Show" is an entertaining and humorous show that does provide a minimal amount of facts to its viewers, it has become many people's source on news. It may be difficult for the standard nightly news to outbid "The Daily Show" as people's primary news provider, but to maintain and fulfil their role as the media they have no other alternative.

Another aspect on the alternative media problem is the recent "weblog" explosion. For those who do not know, a weblog is a website where people post unfiltered information. The problems are that anyone can post on these sites, and the information they give is unchecked and often unreliable. Many of the weblogs are clearly editorial, but a great many of the readers take what they read as fact.

The largest problem the media faces in the recent surge in editorial journalism. In a democratic society it is natural for nearly everyone to have their own opinion on "hot" issues. The problem begins when these opinions override simple, objective, fact-based journalism. A prime example would be CNN's "Crossfire." It is a show where there are four hosts, two Democrats, two Republicans, and they spent a half an hour yelling at each other. While some irrefutable information can be obtained from "Crossfire," most of the information is a combination of manipulation of the facts and bias. The idea that shows like these are more successful than the standard evening news is a problem. True, "Crossfire" is more entertaining than the average evening news, but the function of the media is not to entertain, but to inform.

The media has, to some extent, improved over the years. The distribution of information and the general understanding on the public's part has increased. Technology has allowed for almost instant communication, and thus has made information much more widely accessible. Also, partly as result of the distribution of information, along with other factors, the public is much more informed than they have been in the past. So, it is not as though the media is headed in the complete wrong direction, they are just in need of some guidance.

The demanding role of the media to inform and educate the masses has caused the media to deviate from their progression toward universal and unbiased news. Until they reach that goal, it is our job as informed citizens to not only question the media, but also work to ensure that future of our media.

Jim Katz is a junior and works as a writer for the Spartana. *The views and opinions expressed in this column do not necessarily represent those of* the Spartana *or of its staff.*

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The Spartana is a biweekly production of the Journalism 3/4 class at Homestead High School. Its purpose is to enlighten, educate, and entertain. *The Spartana* has and may continue to operate as a limited open forum for the free exchange of ideas.

Profanity may appear in *the Spartana* with the approval of the advisor, but only in cases of direct quotations or if it is necessary for clarity. Material which is libelous or obscene and could cause substantial and material disruption, as defined by the Supreme Court, will not be printed.

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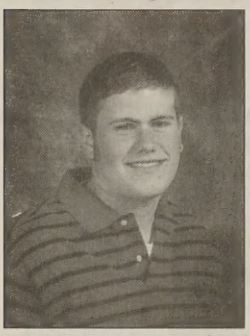
Staff members of *the Spartana* support the First Amendment rights and oppose censorship in any form. The content of the paper is determined by the student staff. In cases of potentially controversial material the editorial board will meet to decide the content of the newspaper. Students will be assisted by the advisor in areas of professional ethics and legalities.

from caddying to college

Western Golf Association awards three Homestead students with caddying scholarship



Tyler Churchward
Designer

Recently, Ryan Houlihan (12), Justin Medert (12), and Kelly Sinak (12) won the Caddying scholarship. Houlihan, Medert, and Sinak were chosen from golf caddies from all over Indiana along with about thirteen other people. Western Golf Association gives out the scholarship and it is given out to as many students as the panel members feel worthy of the award. The sponsoring golf club, like Sycamore, gives the applicant all necessary forms. Golf clubs from all over the state nominate eligible caddies. Requirements to apply for the caddying scholarship include the following: the caddy must have been caddying for more than two years, must have caddied at least sixty round of golf, and have strong caddy and academic records.

> "It was very exciting to win the caddying scholarship and I'm looking forward to going to IU in Bloomington. My parents are very proud of me."
>
> Ryan Houlihan (12)

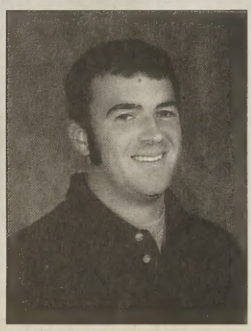
The caddying scholarship from Western Golf Association covers tuition and also provides a house (known as Evans Scholars House) which is similar to a fraternity house. Furthermore, winners are given a job at a sorority house and the meals are all paid for. The only costs are for maintenance and utilities at the house.

There are about twenty colleges in the country that the scholarship recipient is eligible to go to, most of which are located in the Midwest. The only colleges that the student is eligible to go to and still receive the scholarship are colleges which have the house for the students to live in. Indiana University, Purdue University, and Michigan State University are all options for winners of the Caddying Scholarship.

"It's about 2000 dollars per year to cover maintenance and utilities and that's all I have to pay for," Houlihan said.

Houlihan plans to go to Indiana University in Bloomington, Indiana. He plans to major in business, specifically finance or accounting, it is undecided as of yet.

Medert plans to go to Purdue University in West Lafayette, Indiana and major in engineering. Sinak is also going to Purdue University and majoring in theatre arts.



» (top left) Justin Medert will be attending Purdue University, (bottom left) Kelly Sinak will also be attending Purdue University, and Ryan Houlihan (left) will be attending Indiana University in the fall of 2005.

Quick Facts
Indiana University

Where: Bloomington, 7 other campuses

Who: 98,545 students and 15,000 employees in their 8 campuses

Tuition: About $10,500 in state $22,000 out of state

What: Public, Coed, Four-year, 83% admission rate

Interesting info: Research at IU led to the discovery of the Polio vaccine

Quick Facts
Purdue University

Where: West Lafayette, 4 other campuses

Who: 69,050 students and 14,00 employees in their 5 campuses

Tuition: About $15,000 in state $27,000 out of state

What: Public, Coed, Four-year, 80% admission rate

Katie Beck (12) awarded full scholarship to IU's Kelley School of Business

Larry Buchanan
Associate Surplus Editor

As her senior year began, Katie Beck (12) was unsure of her college major, like many seniors. However, now, Beck is not like many seniors. Beck recently received a full scholarship to Indiana University's Kelley School of Business.

To be eligible for the scholarship one must be a citizen of the U.S., have a 1300 SAT or a 30 ACT, rank in the top 10 percent of their class, be admitted with business listed as their intended major and offered direct admission to Kelley School of Business.

Obviously Beck met all of these criteria. She began to fill out the application for the scholarship in early November.

"It was a normal application," Beck said. "I had to give them all of my information and submit an essay I had written. I submitted one that I wrote about soccer."

Katie Beck (12)

Beck waited about 3 months and then was called to IU along with 25 others from all over the nation. Each candidate went through an interview process for the scholarship.

"The majority of the kids were from Indiana," Beck said. "But there were a lot [of students] from other places, too."

Beck was just recently notified on being selected for the prestigious scholarship.

The scholarship provides complete tuition, fees, and a generous living stipend for four years of study in addition to the opportunity to study overseas.

This is all a little ironic because Beck never intended to study business. According to Beck, her mother made her fill out the application

"My mom basically made me fill it out," Beck said jokingly. "I guess it was a pretty good decision on her part. Now I'm studying business. I'm probably going to study business law, and then move on to some type of law school."

The Kelley School of Business was recently ranked in the top 100 business schools worldwide. It ranked 10th among publicly supported institutions, 24th worldwide and 23rd in North America.

"It is widely known that the academic programs at the Kelley School are consistently ranked among the nation's elite," said Dan Smith, interim dean of the Kelley School.

Like many other seniors, Beck will travel to IU in the fall for her first semester of college. However, unlike most, she will be going for free.

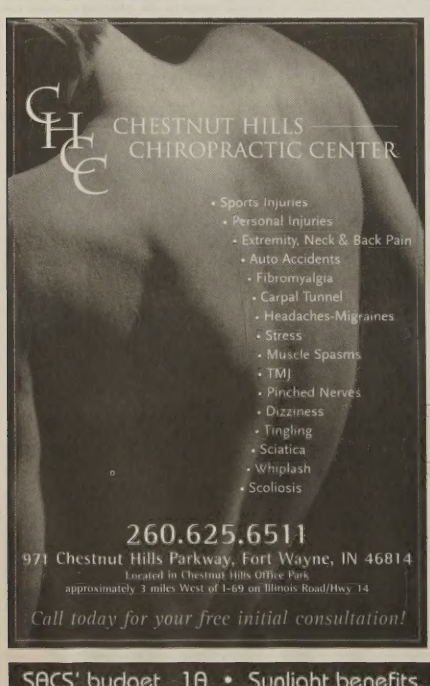
Quick Facts
Kelley Business School

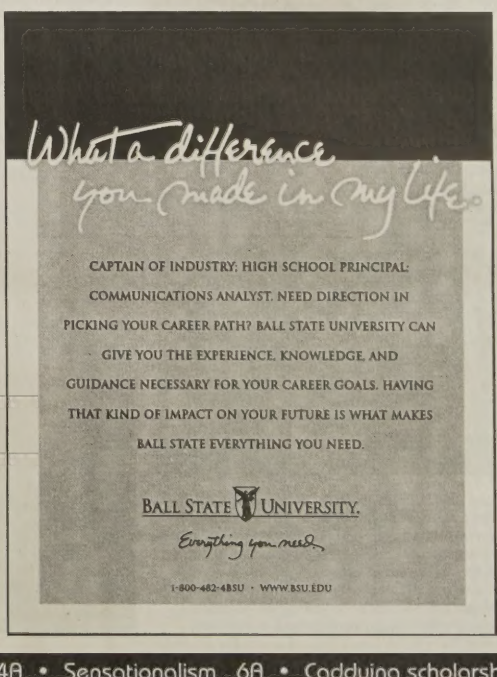
-Ranked 10th among publicly supported institutions

-Ranked 24th in business schools worldwide

-Ranked 23rd in business schools nationwide

-Enrollment: 5,000+




What a difference
you made in my life.
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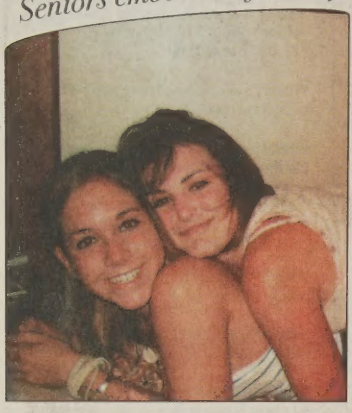
CRUISIN'

Seniors embark on journey along Pacific ocean over Spring break; visit beaches, travel spots



« (Far Left): Hannah Blevins (12) and Amanda Eid (12) relax together in their room on the cruise boat. Phil Hershberger (12), Blevins, and Katie Beck (12) dress up for a night on the boat. The group of seniors that went on the spring break cruise spent seven days on the sea and visited several islands and vacation spots. One of the highlights of the cruise was a formal during a weeknight. Some seniors' families joined them.

Ashley Butler
Profiles Editor

While most students were vacationing with family or passing time in a lonely but warm Fort Wayne, a group of about 20 students chose to spend their week off from school cruising the seas south of the States.

"A couple of the moms had the idea about a year ago," Neel Patel (12) said. "And it all got pulled together from there."

Leaving school as early as Thursday, the students first convened from Fort Wayne in San Juan, Puerto Rico. Missing school was a necessary option: travelers included the overlay in San Juan so they would not miss the cruise completely in case flights were cancelled or delayed, and so that they would be able to find another way of arriving in San Juan in such a case. Groups of two or three traveled together, though some teens traveled with their families. After they arrived in San Juan, some of the boys took to the gambling tables at the casino where some of the teens were staying while the girls watched.

When the group left the casino, they returned to their hotel rooms to catch a few short hours of sleep before their departure. The Caribbean cruise left San Juan on Saturday in the late afternoon.

After setting sail, the students had the chance to split their time between lounging on the boat and visiting various destinations. Saint Thomas, Saint Maarten, Barbados, and Saint Lucia were among the most popular destinations.

"We went kayaking and snorkeling in Antigua," Molly Jorgensen (12) said. "It was one of the most beautiful places I've ever been."

Other well-liked island activities were visiting the beaches, jet-skiing, and shopping. In addition, the students were exposed to the diverse dialects of the islands, since each island has a history linked to a different country. The islands not only held fun activities and experiences but were also aesthetically pleasing.

"In Antigua the water was extremely blue and there were lots of pretty hills and islands," Jorgensen said.

Though the students enjoyed their time spent on the islands, they also loved being at sea aboard the ship.

"We only had one day at sea, but there were a lot of things to do besides lay at the pool," Jorgensen said. "There was a rock wall on the ship that we climbed. We also got a big game of soccer together one day and had the chance to gamble and go shopping on the boat."

On the ship, entertainment options included gambling, swimming, rock climbing, shuffleboard, attending shows, visiting the club on board, shopping, and playing ping pong, among others. Cruise ships offer a variety of themed nights including a formal night mid-week, where an elegant dinner was served in a sophisticated setting.

"On formal night, everyone looked really nice," Mandy Eid (12) said. "There were professional photographers taking portraits, and the food was a lot more fancy than usual."

For some, this cruise was the first time to visit another country.

"I had never been out of the country, so it was cool to see all the different cultures," Eid said.

Because of the combination of relaxing and unique experiences, the spring break cruise was a fun, inimitable vacation that capped off four years of high school and friendship for the seniors.

"Being with such a large group of friends in the Caribbean was a great experience," Jorgensen said. "It's not something that most people get a chance to do."

photos courtesy amanda eid

» Top: Ben Deschner (12), Neel Patel (12), Neil Shah (12), Shane Connolly (12), and Chase Meeks (12) pose on a staircase on the cruise boat. The photo was taken during the night of the formal. The Meeks family and the Deschner family accompanied the seniors on the cruise. This group of seniors traveled to locations such as St. Thomas and Antigua. Bottom: Deschner, Matt Anderson (12), Molly Jorgensen (12), Phil Hershberger (12), Amanda Eid (12), and Katie Beck (12) engage in a game of putt-putt golf. In addition to tanning on the beaches, these students were able to enjoy other relaxing activities such as mini golf.

SACS's budget crisis. 1A • NHS coffee house .3A • Sensationalism. 6A • Spring break cruise. 8A
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JV's success

Left: Kyle Fezi (10) runs a relay race. Both JV girls and boys have witnessed success.

p. 3

Sports

Track's triumph

Right: Hannah Weide (12) participates in a relay race at a track meet.

p. 2

issue 12 • the Spartana • April 29, 2005

9 wins

0 losses

7 rank

photo:zach hetrick

Chris Copley (12) pitches in the game against Huntington North. Copley's efforts have helped compile a perfect record.

Explosive offense, senior pitching vaults varsity squad to seventh rank in state

Jessica Bird
Writer

Starting the season off by not only meeting preseason expectations, but far surpassing them, the baseball team has come out victorious in all of their opening games and continuously move up in the area and state rankings.

Led by a group of talented returning seniors, the baseball team entered the season more than prepared, and has knocked off every opponent they have faced. Considered strong both in the field and at the plate, the Spartans have been utilizing all of their assets to put teams away.

"We are pretty much solid everywhere," Jared Baker (12) said. "We have solid pitching and are doing well in the field. But our best asset is our offense, we can score with anybody, when we hit well, we play good, I mean really good."

The team considers its greatest strength its offensive potency. In their first eight games they outscored their competition 82-27, and have scored in the double-digits five out of the eight games. With four players already hitting home runs, and numerous others capable, the team forces competitors to worry about the hitting capabilities of the Spartans' entire line-up.

"Our hitting really sets us up well to win," Matt Hille (12) said. "We don't really have any weak hitters, and everyone has the potential to get on base. By scoring so high every game we really demoralize our opponents and pump ourselves up. Also, it gives us a little leeway and releases some of the pressure on defense. But that doesn't mean we ever let up."

photo:zach hetrick

« Kyle Sherer (10) attempts to get the runner out at first base. Sherer started the game against Huntington North.

The team starts six returning position players and has retained three pitchers from last year's starting rotation. While Homestead has been consistently scoring ten or more runs, the team's defense has kept every team except one from scoring over five. This can be attributed to the experience and skill of the starting core defensive players.

"Our defensive lineup from top to bottom is strong, to quite strong," Hille said. "With all of our returning talent we have been extremely proficient when out in the field. Our seniors really lead the team, and try and get the job done non-stop every day."

The pitching staff has also proven to be extremely effective so far this season. Jared Baker (12), Chris Copley (12), Kyle Leindecker (10), and Taylor Kinzer (11) lead the staff and each are undefeated thus far. Baker has achieved a 3-0 record and a 2.14 ERA. Copley, who was out last season due to a back injury, has rejoined the team and has won three games as well. Kinzer and Leindecker have both one game so far.

"Our pitching has been pretty big this year," Baker said. "Many people felt that pitching would be our weakness, but were all throwing very well right now and with the way our offense is swinging, we can't lose."

The team opened their season against Blackford, which proved to be a game that would set the seasons tone by scoring well above their competition in their 12-2 victory. Next, they faced off with Marion in a double header in which they would win the first by only two runs, and then take the second by 11 in a 15-4 win.

The team then knocked off Dwenger in one of their closest games so far, 3-1. Their next two outings would be won by a combined score of 30-9 after defeating Manchester 20-5 and Concordia 10-4. Finally, on April 19th the team traveled to Blackhawk Christian where they would eventually win 12-7. The team also played April 21st against Huntington North. The boys played East Noble on the 27th.

photo:zach hetrick

Ryan Chenoweth (12) slides into second base for the steal. Chenoweth had a total of three stolen bases in the game against Huntington.

Baseball Scoreboard

12-2 Blackford	20-5 Manchester
3-1 15-4 Marion	10-4 Concordia
3-1 Dwenger	12-7 Blackhawk

Tennis team begins competing; coaches announce roster

Girls win against Snider, Concordia, New Haven

Erin Quinn
Writer

The varsity tennis team had their first four matches and came close to establishing their final roster over the past three weeks. The seven varsity players competed against Snider on April 12, Concordia on the 14th, New Haven on the 19th, and Bishop Luers on the 21st.

Tennis, unlike other sports, is divided into four "teams" based on ability. The varsity team is composed of the seven best players. There are two reserve teams: the blue and gold squads. Those sets of seven players alternate playing in matches. For example, the varsity and gold team played against Snider, and the varsity and blue teams played against Concordia. The fourth team is known as the white team, and they only play at home matches when the opposing team brings more than the 14 varsity and reserve players.

The varsity, blue, gold, and white teams correspond with the four grades. As a senior, you have to be on varsity, and as a junior, you must be on one of the reserve teams. A player will be cut if they do not improve from one season to the next, a player on the white team must make a reserve team the next year.

The varsity team consists of seven players, the three best singles players, and the two best doubles teams. Amy Recht (10) is in the top singles position, which means that in matches, she faces the top singles player from the opposing school. In the match against Concordia, Recht won the first two matches that she played. She hasn't lost yet, beating her opponents from Snider, Concordia, New Haven, and Bishop Luers.

Sarah Nicholson (12) is the number two singles player, and Abby Machmut (9) is the number three singles player. During a match, the first, second, and third seeds from each school play three matches, if necessary, to determine a winner. Both Machmut and Nicholson beat their opponents in every match.

Melissa Martin (11) and Erin Wright (11) play together as the top doubles team. Wright and Martin are undefeated thus far, going 4-0 against Snider, Concordia, Bishop Luers, and New Haven.

Christine Antrobus (11) and her sister, Sarah Antrobus (9) played as the number two doubles team in the match against Snider. They were the only team that lost, contributing to the varsity team score of 4-1. In the second match, against Concordia, C. Antrobus played with Caitlin Myers (11), and they beat the Cadet's number two doubles team. Myers and C. Antrobus also played together against New Haven and Bishop Luers, and the pair are expected to remain in the number two doubles spot for the remainder of the season.

Due to bad weather, the Carmel Invitational, one of the most important tournaments of the season, was cancelled. Snow and gusty conditions on Saturday the 24th forced the matches to be called off. The match against East Nobel on the following Tuesday was also cancelled, because of rain.

Consequently, the team has only had four matches this season. In those matches, the varsity team has not lost. They shut out Concordia in their second match, 5-0, and beat Snider 4-1. On Tuesday, April 19, they faced New Haven, and both doubles teams and all three singles players pulled out wins. In the match against New Haven, Jeannett Natusch (11) stepped in for Nicholson, who was dealing with an injury.

Although Recht predicts that they will only truly be tested by the teams from Indianapolis, such as Munster and North Central, she believes they will face their toughest local competition, Canterbury, in one of the area invitationals.

Coach Jim Shull is optimistic about his team's ability to go to the state competition again.

"I'd like to go [to State] again this year, and we definitely have a chance," Shull said. "We had this much of a chance last year, and look what happened with that. We won one match and that's all it took to get second. We're just shooting for being one of the top four teams again this year and going to state."

The girls' match on Tuesday, April 26, was cancelled due to rain.

Boys baseball. 1B • Varsity track and field. 2B • JV softball. 3B • Spotlight: Paul Gauger. 4B

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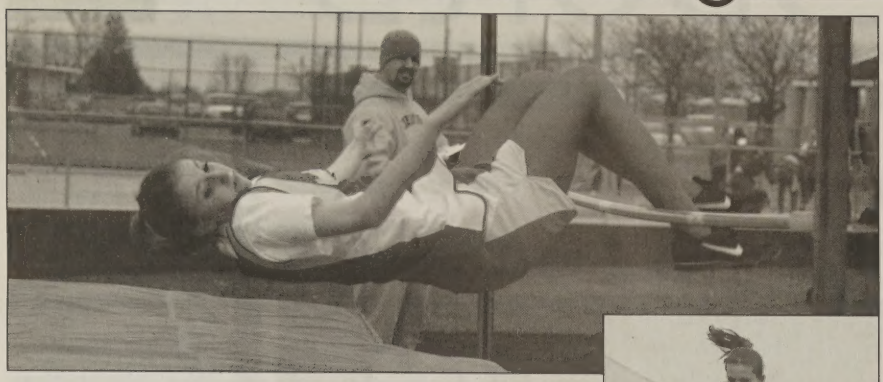


Track's triumph

Girls dominate area competition

Maria Didier
Writer

The girls track season hit off with their first official meet against Huntington North on Tuesday, March 22. The team had three indoor meets to prepare them for their first formal meet; however, the meets were not scored. Some of the runners at the indoor track meets qualified at Purdue to go to the finals at Indiana University.

On their first meet, varsity won with the score of 87 and Huntington North with 45 points. Conditioning started about two months ago for the runners and throwers to get into shape. Coaching the team is Anne Tiernon. Many state qualifiers are returning for another season including a valuable senior, Hannah Weide.

"We lost some key seniors, but it is early in the season and some freshman could surprise some people later on," Weide said.

With the goal of winning conference, track members such as Sarah Schepper (12), Bliss Cook (12), Sam Lee (11), Katie Veith (10), Kathryn Zachman (11), Whitney Johnson (11), and many more will help the team reach their goals. The team hopes to build strength to defeat the tough competition.

"We have a real good nucleus," Tiernon said.

The team is trying to fill in the spaces of their lost seniors and injured runners, such as Veith. Usually, the team has three hard workouts and two easy workouts a week. Each work out depends on what events people are in. Most of the time after practice, everyone does either weight lifting or hurdle drills. All the events are key events for the team in scoring points.

"We try and look at being balanced," Tiernon said.

The first invitational was two weeks after spring break at Penn gathering 15 teams all around including Northrop High School. Northrop's track team has been runners-up for three years at the invitational. Other meets will be difficult for the team because of Carroll's strong distance runners and Concordia's well-developed team.

The team is hoping to beat the five-year state champions, Northrop at the big conference. Tiernon wished the Northrop track met would have been later in the season so her team would have been more prepared; however, the team pulled off a great win against the Bruins on March 30 at Homestead with the score of 67 and Bruins 65. Huntington North also competed in the race earning a score of 35.

"We have a couple of Saturday meets, Penn and Lime City, that have good competition that will help us as well as sectionals, regionals, and state," Weide said.

"The team did really well at the indoor meets," Cook said. "We posted strong performances all across the team. We sent a relay and some individuals to the indoor state finals."

Besides having an overall well out look of runners, the track team has well developed throwers, such as two sophomores, Stephanie Mitchell and Lauren Cleaver.

"They are doing really well for being underclassmen," Tiernon said.

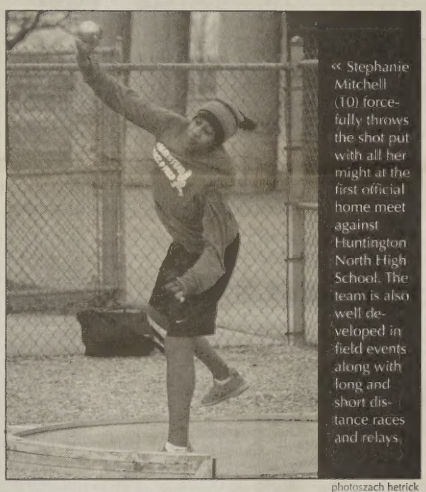
After reaching the goal of winning conference, the track team hopes to get as many people in the championship at sectionals, regionals, and state.

"It is never given to you," Weide said. 'We need to perform the best and hopefully that will give us a shot."

Overall, the track team is excited for the upcoming season. With the high hopes of winning conference and sending many runners to state, the track team looks forward to strengthening their team. Though their season will be difficult, the girls are well prepared for the hard track meets a head of them.

» Emily Gemple (11) successfully clears the bar as one of the high jumpers on the girls track and field team.

Jennifer Bowers (11) jumps a hurdle with perfect form during the 100 meter hurdle dash. «



« Stephanie Mitchell (10) forcefully throws the shot put with all her might at the first official home meet against Huntington North High School. The team is also well developed in field events along with long and short distance races and relays.

photos zach hetrick

» Sam Lee (11) finishes the mile race while Kelsey Knapp (9) is just behind her at a home meet.

» Coach Tiernon pushes Erin Blum (10) to keep her lead against Huntington North while running her leg in a relay race.

Girls softball team reaps benefits of perseverance

Lee Farnsworth
Business Manager

The girls softball team has already put in a lot of hard work this year and is seeing it pay off in the form of an undefeated season through the team's first three games.

The girls started their tryouts on March 7th, and they feel confident that they have put a great team together. The team benefits greatly from its solid base of senior talent. Seven seniors anchor the team providing leadership, insight, and a good deal of talent. Sixteen girls in total make up the team with a few playing for both the varsity and junior varsity squads in order to gain experience competing at a high level for future seasons. All are optimistic about the team's prospects this year.

"I think that we have the talent to win conference this year," said Amber Ludwig (12) who is the team's ace pitcher and has played varsity for all four years of high school. "In fact, I think we have a real shot at winning sectionals as well."

The girls have played three games thus far, the first of which was against Concordia. With solid defense and timely hitting, the girls were victorious by a score of three runs to one. An excellent pitching and defensive performance against Leo led to a shutout victory by a score of three to zero. The girls then played the obviously overmatched Southside Archers and exploded for ten runs, while shutting out their opponent for the second straight game. The girls then went on to split two games yet remain strong overall for the season. Having allowed on one run through three games, the girls' defense is certainly one of their strengths. With superb pitching and great fielding behind it, the team can feel confident about its chances against any given opponent.

> "We could go really far this year because we have seven really solid seniors on the team. I'm not sure if that's happened before."
> Amber Ludwig (12)

The team's seven seniors also provide a great deal of talent and serve as an example to the rest of the girls. Because it is their last year, the seniors are anxious to leave as sectional and conference champions. This desire also helps to propel the girls to each and every win.

"We could go really far this year because we have seven really solid seniors on the team," Ludwig said. "I'm not sure if that's ever happened at Homestead before."

The team is coach by Tom Clagg, who is knowledgeable about the game and has also earned the respect and trust of the team.

The girls have a long way to go, but they are confident that they can keep up their winning ways. Ultimately, it is endurance and consistency which will prove to be the most beneficial characteristics of this team. The fact that the girls have the ability to find ways to win and keep themselves in games each and every night could make the difference between a mediocre season and an extraordinary one. The team still has several big games left, and they continue to dutifully work on all aspects of the game until they reach their goals. By taking a holistic approach to improvement, the girls are improving as complete players not just in specific areas. The girls have worked on all aspects including hitting, fielding, strategy, and conditioning. With the talent of the team both out of the field and with the bat, they seem poised to capture a sectional title. Indeed, the girls appear skilled enough and determined enough to accomplish their sectional dream.

Gaining acknowledgement, girls rugby team commences season in hopes of success

Evan Childers
Writer

With spring in full swing, and warm weather finally here to stay, Homestead is more than ready to welcome back all of the usual spring sports. The baseball and softball teams take to the fields, while boys golf hits the links.

But often the noise surrounding the more noticeable teams drowns out the lesser known ones- and while the baseball players are swinging for the fences, boys and girls rugby takes to the rugby field almost unnoticed.

Yet, as every new season comes around, the rugby teams take to the fields with enthusiasm, hoping for a successful season and a little recognition. Perhaps this year, they will get both. Girls rugby has started strong, winning its first game of the season against Penn, and hopes to build on this momentum. The girls are coached by substitute teacher Eckler.

Both rugby teams are not sanctioned by the school and, therefore, may use members of other schools on their team. Members of Bishop Dwenger High School play on the same team as rugby players from this school.

Rugby, for those who are not familiar with the sport, is most similar to the sport of football. There are no forward passes (though one may kick the ball), and the objective is still to get the ball past the end line. This is most frequently accomplished by lateral passes between teammates, while the opposing group attempts to regain possession and prevent the score, or tri, as it is called.

Each team fields fifteen players, whose positions are determined by their number (the numbers 1 through 15 are used) and each player has a specific task to accomplish.

Rugby, which is a club sport, and not sanctioned by Homestead, is always looking for new players.

"[Rugby] is really fun and at the same time it is a positive outlet for aggression," Julia Haller (11) said. "What I really love about games is looking at the other teams' girls and see what beasts they are except it is kind of intimidating it they are huge. But it is really fun to play as a team and when you come together and are advancing the ball then it is a lot of fun."

Haller is a winger, in the back line, and her job is to wait for the other backs to pass the ball and then attempt to score. Wingers are faster, smaller players whose speed and agility makes them ideal for open field situations.

Last year, girls rugby suffered a disappointing loss early in their post-season play, but hopes are high entering the new season. Led by the strong play of their captains, Stephanie Hammel (12) and Amber Whirling (Bishop Dwenger), and the play of Jenna Salamone (12), the team expects to make an impact this postseason.

"Our team is a lot stronger than last year and we have really started to come together as a team," Haller said. "I think we are going to do very well in the upcoming season."

Tearing up the track

JV boys and girls track teams begin seasons in powerful fashion; defeat Columbia City

Joe Salisbury
Writer

Another year of Homestead track is underway, and the junior varsity team is well on their way to another successful season. Throughout the winter, many of the team's members have been running and weight training to condition for the season. Hoping that the extra work would lead to a successful season and a very strong team, the team entered its first meet with confidence.

To begin their season, some of the junior varsity members were able to go to some of the indoor meets with the varsity team. The girls track team had an indoor meet at Anderson University on March 5th. The boys had their first indoor meet on March 2nd at Huntington North. Both, the girls and boys, teams had indoor meets at the NSR Classic at Purdue on March 11th. Also, they both competed in the NSR Finals on March 19th in Bloomington.

The few junior varsity members that went to these events saw it as a great learning experience. It was the first time for many of them to see some of the best competition in the state, and it gave them an idea and goal to work toward throughout the season.

> "We started our conditioning a while back, we trained a lot in the weight room and it is really showing early in the season"
>
> Augi Dickson (10)

Finally on March 22nd, the girls team had its first outdoor meet against Huntington North. The girls got off to a great start and won their first meet of the year.Then on March 30th they had a dual meet against Northrop and Huntington North. Following the varsity team's impressive win over #1 in the state, Northrop, the junior varsity team also went on to win the meet. This meet was one of the defining ones of the season for the team. They all felt very proud to go up against one of the top teams in the state, and end up winning. The next meet for the girls was their first conference match for the season, against Columbia City on April 13th. Continuing their hot streak, the team won again to begin their conference season.

Their next conference meet was against the East Noble Knights, on April 19. Riding their confidence from their past wins, the team won yet again. This continued their unbeaten streak in conference play, and put the in good position for the conference championship. Macy Zander (10) won the 200 meter dash, Jen Bowers (11) won the 300 hurdles, Kaylee Ehler (9) won the 400m to help lead the way for the girls.

"We have worker really hard the last few months," Kelli Ford (10) said. "We started with our conditioning to get everyone going and we have all been improving a lot since then. We really want to stay on top of teams in the area."

The boys outdoor track season got off to start on March 23rd with an away meet against Elmhurst. The team came out with enthusiasm and it led to a big won for the Spartans. The team showed how hard they had worked throughout the off season for an impressive first meet. Next up was a dual meet against Huntington North and South Side, in their first home meet of the season. The team once again showed it was up to the challenge and beat both the Vikings and Archers. Charles Seals (9) won the 200 meter dash to lead the way. Following spring break, the team returned for their conference opener against Columbia City on April 13th. The boys came out with a lot of confidence from previous meets and won again.

On April 19th, the boys team had another important meet against East Noble. This would prove to be a very important conference matchup, especially if the team was to reach their goal of winning conference. Luckily, the guys came out on top to add to their undefeated conference season. Ryan Fausnaugh (10) won the discus event to help lead the way for the Spartans.

"Our team has been training really hard," Augi Dickson (10) said. "All of our coaches work us hard everyday. It all pays off if we continue to do well."

"We started our conditioning a while back, we trained a lot in the weight room and it is really showing early in the season," Dickson said.

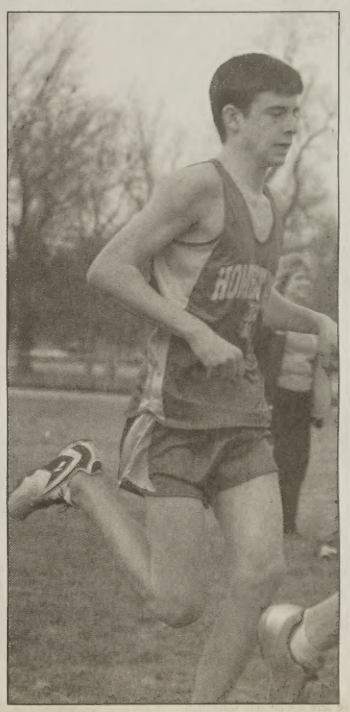
With a majority of their season left, there are a lot of opportunities for the teams to improve on early season times and scores. The girls and boys had a meet on April 26th against Carroll and DeKalb at Dekalb. Results were unavailable as of press time. On May 3rd, the teams will face off against New Haven and Norwell at Norwell.

Both of the teams have had successful seasons so far and are hoping to continue. They are both in strong positions to finish as one of the top teams in the conference.

"I think our team can keep on winning if we keep our minds to it," Dickson said. "As long as we keep working really hard, we will be able to be one of the top teams in the area. We have gotten off to a great start and I hope we can stay on this pace."

After a strong start to the season, both track teams are hoping to finish off strong and step up to help the team.

Jacob Weide (9) pole vaults at a meet. Both teams have high expectations for their season and are practicing hard along with conditioning.



Mike Townsend (top) strongly finishes his race.

photos:zach hetrick

Levi Bolinger (9) throws the discus during a meet against Columbia City High School.

JV girls softball has high hopes for season

Erin Quinn
Writer

The junior varsity softball team began its season two weeks ago with a solid 3-0 record. The team's mental focus and talent were tested immediately by three back-to-back games on the 11th, 12th, and 13th of April. The next week, they traveled to Huntington North to face the Vikings on the 18th.

In what was supposed to be their first game, South Side's squad was forced to forfeit, which counted as an automatic win for the Spartans. The South Side players took the loss because they failed to turn in their medical cards by the scheduled date. Coach Joe Osborn attempted to set up an impromptu three inning scrimmage; however, it was deemed a "waste of time," as South Side could not even pitch the ball over the plate. In the second game of the season, the Spartans faced the Northside Redskins, and won in an overwhelming 17-0 victory. Maria Didier (11) pitched the first three innings, and Andrea Layton (9) finished off the game. On account of the significant lead, the game was shortened from the standard seven innings to five.

> We work together, which is essential for winning. We have a lot of talent in every aspect of the game- we have strong hitters, fielders, and base runners.
>
> Andrea Layton (9)

"We performed solidly against Northside, despite being nervous," Stacy Roelke (10) said. "We calmed down when we had ten runs in the second inning."

Roelke's favorite positions are catcher and outfield, but she spends most of her time behind the plate.

On Wednesday, April 13, the Lady Spartans faced Bishop Luers in their third game. They won, once again, by a score of 8-2. In the early stages of the game, Luers trailed by only a single run.

"Our temporary slump ended when we really began hitting the ball well and fielding everything that came to us," Hollie Lobrillo (9) said.

The team practices almost two hours a day, six days a week, excluding the days when they have games. During practices, Osborn critiques the players' fundamentals, especially throwing and hitting. Depending on the varsity team's schedule, the junior varsity squad takes advantage of the batting cages that are located outside. The players focus on technique during practice sessions so they will be able to maintain their form and effectiveness during pressure situations.

Kelsey Kleber (10) predicts that variables such as the talented freshman class will help the team be successful and improve upon their 12-5 record from last year.

"Snider, Carroll, and Bellmont will have very good teams again this year, but they were close games last season, and I think we have a good chance of pulling out wins this time," Kleber said.

Led by three juniors who play both JV and varsity, the team is fairly young, with a combination of freshmen and sophomores. Layton, one of the many freshmen, also believes that they will have a good season.

"We work together, which is essential for winning," Layton said.

We also have a lot of talent in every aspect of the game. For example, we have strong hitters, fielders, and base runners," Layton said.

Boys baseball shows a promising start to undefeated season

Sam VanHorn
Writer

Some may say that adversity is a good thing and helps teams play better because they have a purpose bigger than their own sport. Others may disagree and say that the players are not ready to step up to a challenge that big. This season with the death of a JV baseball player Zach Gentry, this year's baseball team is ready to face anything thrown at them.

"We're dedicating the season to Zach and his family," Charley Jorgensen (10) said. "We want to go undefeated and win conference."

The varsity, JV, and freshman team all have the initials 'ZG' stitched into their baseball hats.

The team has been working very hard for the past couple of months conditioning and getting ready for the season. They practice everyday after school, usually until around 5:00.

The expectations coming into this season are very high, as a great team from last season is back along with a few players including Jordan Wise (10) and Dennis Park (10). These players were JV last season and have now joined an already promising team.

Compared to last year Kyle McWilliams (10) said, "We should be better this season, we have more players. We have the best of the best out there."

The first game of the season was played against Luers on April 12. The Spartans got off to a hot start in their first two innings. Wise pitched a two inning shut out not allowing a single run to cross the plate. On the reverse side, the offense scored six runs in the first two innings making the score 6-0. However, the game got away from the Spartans as they allowed three runs in the top of the seventh inning to make the score 7-6. Wise had to reenter the game to make the save as he was credited with his first win and save for the season.

"[Luers] brought down three varsity players to play in the game," McWilliams said. "Coach didn't' tell us that when we were playing."

McWilliams is batting .333 with one double, one RBI, and five runs.

Despite having to play against three varsity players the JV team was able to pull away with the victory 7-6 and their first win of the season.

The second game of the year was played against Bluffton. The Spartans did not commit many errors as they ten run ruled them 11-0 to win the game in five innings. Park pitched very well facing six batters and struck out five of them. This season Park has pitched two innings and has five strike outs all coming in this game. He has a 0.00 ERA with just one walk on the year.

The third game was played on Thursday April, 18 against the Blackford Bruins. The team continued their dominance beating them 13-1, and had to only play five innings once again. The only two home runs of the season were hit in this game by Josh Butcher (10), and Park. Butcher is leading the team in stolen bases (3) and is tied for the lead in homers (1). Wise pitched very well for the team as he was in for four of the five innings allowing only one run. On the season, Wise is 2-0, with a 2.33 ERA, and eight strikeouts.

The JV baseball team is now 3-0 on the season, beating their opponents by a combined score of 30-7. The defense for the Spartans has been very good after a rough start against Luers. The outfield this season led by center fielder Cory Elmer (10), has only allowed one error all season.

Their next two games were double headers that were played last Saturday, April 23. Big games this year to look forward to are back to back games on May 2 and 3. The first is against the Snider Panthers and the following game will be played against the Bellmont Braves.

"Bellmont and Snider will be the biggest games this season," McWilliams said. "Also, Huntington North because they beat us last year in the tournament."

Beginning this early season at a record of 3-0, the JV baseball team looks to be facing adversity by playing better, and serving a purpose bigger than the sport itself. Despite the loss and tragedy the team has suffered, they are bound to make this season a good one. They not only lost a great player, but an amazing friend. For most of the players, knowing that Zach is smiling down on them is reason enough to fight for an undefeated season.

Upcoming Games

May 02	Snider (A)
May 03	Bellmont (A)
May 05	DeKalb (H)
May 09	Wabash (H)
May 10	Carroll (H)
May 12	Norwell (A)

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Boys golf swings into action for a new season

Evan Childers
Writer

As spring approaches, and the golf courses reopen, golf fans everywhere experience the familiar pangs of joy and frustration as they take to the fairways for the first time. For the boys varsity golf team, those feelings are no different, as they struggle to hit the greens and avoid the sand traps in what appears to be a promising season.

"I always enter the start of a new golf season with enthusiasm," David Childers (12) said. "It's such a good feeling to take to the course for the first time after a long winter."

The squad began its season with a victory in their opener against Concordia, despite playing on Concordia's home course. They subsequently traveled to DeKalb, where the Barons handed the team a loss, which came by less than ten strokes. Varsity golf has a tough schedule this year, with a plethora of away games, which are decidedly tougher on the team.

"Away games are a lot tougher, just because we aren't as familiar with the golf course," Paul Gauger (12) said. "Home games are a big advantage to us, and we wish we had more of them."

Last year the team had an excellent season, going undefeated in regular season play, only to lose in a tough sectional match. This year, the team hopes to survive the sectional round, and maybe head to state on the shoulders of their seniors.

"We think we have a good chance of going to state this year," Gauger said. "Last year was really disappointing, just because we had a great season and a good chance of going far. We played well in the sectional competition but all the advancing teams just played exceptional."

Part of the difficulty that must be overcome by the team is how to meld individual play and team play in such a way to form a strong unit.

"This is an individual sport but at the same time it's a team sport, but we work pretty well together," Gauger said.

"I like it because you don't have to depend on other people, and yet, in a way, you do," Childers said. "It's completely individual, but you can't have any weak links."

Although their new season hasn't started off exceptionally, the team still has reason to believe it can go far.

"We're really looking forward to the coming years," Childers said.

« David Childers putts the ball during a match against Columbia City

photo: josh zurawski

» Eric Johnston (10) putts a ball on the green.

» J.T. MacLeod (12) hits a ball to the green.

» Johnston (10) hits a ball at the edge of the course.

Senior Paul Gauger leads way to promising season in new golf season

photojosh zurawski

Tyler Keena
Writer

After several competitive seasons, the boys golf team has entered its 2005 season hoping to continue its success as the younger players from the teams in the past mature and gain experience. Paul Gauger (12) has hopefully had all the experience he needs as he enters this season as a four-year letterman for the Spartan golf team.

Gauger was a very important part to the 2003 and 2004 Spartan golf teams, with a nine-hole average of 38.9 and 40 respectively.

"I've shot pretty well the last two seasons and I think I've improved this year," Gauger said. "I just haven't shot as well as I can yet and hopefully my scores will improve as we get deeper into the season."

> I've shot pretty well the last two seasons and I think I've improved this year.
> Paul Gauger (12)

This season, Gauger started the season shooting 40 in a win over Concordia and 42 in a loss to DeKalb, the team's first two nine-hole matches. Gauger also shot an 82 in an 18-hole invitational held at the Legends, the state course for Indiana high school golfers. Gauger followed these performances with a 42 in the Spartan's last conference victory versus Columbia City last Tuesday. The Spartans beat the Eagles in a tiebreak to take their first NHC victory of the year

The team took on Warsaw last Saturday, where they took their second straight win. On Tuesday, the Spartans met Norwell, their conference rivals. The Knights were ranked first in the area power poll and the Spartans needed a strong performance from Gauger if they hoped to be victorious against an extremely talented Norwell squad.

« Paul Gauger puts during a match. » Gauger adjusts his shot.

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The artistic stylings of Art Club

Art teacher and students work to form new club

Lee Farnsworth
Business Manager

Sarah Shatto, a first year art teacher at Homestead, is young and full of energy. Shatto first attended the University of Indiana, Bloomington for two years while majoring in studio art and art history. Shatto then transferred to St. Francis where she majored in art education and graduated with high honors. During her first year here, Shatto has had to acclimate herself to teaching at Homestead, yet she has still found time to dedicate to sponsoring the newly-established Teen Art Club.

The club, which was started thanks to the impetus of art student Jenny Shao (11), has been guided by Shatto since it first began to form back in November or December. The club just started holding meetings at the beginning of the second semester and has already held three meetings with another planned for next week. The club has also begun to draft its constitution. Although Shatto does provide the club with a sponsor, it is a student-run organization with its own leaders.

"I'm here to guide the club," Shatto said, "but I want it to be student focused."

The club will focus on the promotion of a more artistic community in and around Homestead. Its official mission statement is "the main purpose and goal of the Homestead Art Club is to create an artistic community among students to learn, grow, and create as individuals and artists." The club will also perform some service projects throughout the year, and is interested in creating a mural somewhere in Homestead. Shatto will also provide the club's members with a chance to talk about the many areas of art not covered in detail in courses offered by the school. The students will learn things beyond actual studio classes such as portfolio development or pursuing a career in the arts.

"It is nice for me," Shatto said. "It is kind of my contribution to the school during my first year."

photokara wall

Sarah Shatto and Jenny Shao (11) laugh at an art club meeting. The art club has now held about 4 meetings.

Shatto and the club are also excited about recruiting students to do something creative after school. The club provides kids with an outlet for their creativity and a place which provides them with the tools to express themselves in an artistic medium. People have always expressed interest in a club, and Shatto even expressed her own surprise that Homestead did not already have a club of this nature.

"I couldn't believe Homestead didn't have one already," Shatto said. In her opinion, Homestead has an amazing arts department full of diverse, interesting, and challenging courses. Homestead also has many students interested and talented in the area of the arts.

> "Homestead is probably the only place I've ever wanted to teach... Kids don't know how lucky they are to have a great department and selection in all of the arts."
>
> -Sarah Shatto

Ever since her years at college observing teachers at Homestead and student teaching at the school, Shatto has wanted to be a part of the arts program here. Homestead's exceptional art facilities and arts program in general attracted Shatto to the school immediately.

"This is my dream job," Shatto said. "Homestead is probably the only place I've ever wanted to teach."

She believes the opportunity to teach at Homestead is a blessing. She also feels that many kids also take going to Homestead for granted.

"Kids here don't know how lucky they are to have a great department and selection in all of the arts," Shatto said.

This may be, but as several devoted artists, eager to promote their passion for art and their work throughout the school, would tell you, we are equally as lucky to have such a devoted and passionate teacher as Shatto onboard with the new Teen Art Club.

surplus
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volume 1

A Night in Paris

Prom Preview 2005

a column by Christy Landrigan **the lost art**

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New art teacher works with student Jenny Shao (11) to form Art Club

April is National Poetry Month--didn't you know?

Art form viewed as archaic, but continues to retain significance in society

Christy Landrigan
Surplus Editor

Don't worry. I'm not going to try to make you care about poetry. Chances are, you already do care. You just don't realize it yet. It's National Poetry Month, and I feel obligated to acknowledge it, being a poetry lover myself. I find April an oddly appropriate time to set aside for poetry, with its spontaneous, unpredictable weather. April weather tends to be just as unpredictable as life is, bringing with it unexpected sunshine and even (as with last weekend) snow.

During spring, the most prominent emotion for me is anxiousness. With April comes Spring Break, preparation for AP tests, and just enough gorgeous weather to tease us into thinking that summer is well on its way. For most students, this month provided a welcome relief from the pressures of school with its week-long vacation while hinting at what the upcoming three months of summer have in store. As a senior, I am anxious to know what my future out of high school will hold, but I'm also fearful of what my freedom from public education means. Immense responsibility awaits me in the sometimes daunting future; I am both anxious to accept it and anxious of what that responsibility means I will soon have to sacrifice. Although experiences can be as varied as April weather, no matter how I feel, I have always found that a poet somewhere, sometime has articulated an answer in words that I cannot summon.

Las year, when Connie Christophersen taught AP Literature, students were assigned research papers focusing on the impact of poets through different eras. I chose Elizabeth Barrett Browning, a revolutionary poetess who challenged the status quo with her political poems and with her platonically passionate love poems to her husband Richard (who was a better-known poet than she was before they met). Browning truly did impact Victorian society with her poetry because her words allowed members of that proper society to overstep the restricting expectations of the era to experience unrestrained emotions and deep thought they would otherwise shun according to social expectation. "How do I love thee?" she asked. "Let me count the ways."

Since the Victorian age and with the Industrial Revolution, world society has changed tremendously. As a whole, industrialized countries found themselves in a frenzied state of action, always on the move. We had less time for acquisition of intangible things like knowledge and more for acquisition of material goods. Social revolutionaries came in the form of poets like e.e.cummings and Alice Walker.

The musicians of the 60's and 70's attempted to counter an increasingly materialistic society. Joni Mitchell's song "Big Yellow Taxi" bemoans the loss of nature's beauty to commercial structures, while Bob Dylan contributed his two cents on nearly every social problem he observed.

> "When John Donne wrote that "the pen is mightier than the sword," he could not have envisioned the world as it is today with its emphasis on snappy visuals that provide us with daily doses of realism.

Today, poetry might not have a huge role in politics or even society when compared to the impact of the television and movie industries, but it retains its place as a useful means of expressing oneself. Poetry still packs a punch. It must: why else would people be paid a yearly salary to work as lyricists? If poetry was unimportant to modern society, why would musicians bother to write the lyrics condemning the War on Terrorism, as with the Black Eyed Peas recent collaboration with Justin Timberlake? Where is the love, people? And why would Dick Cheney's wife Carole sue rhyme-writing rapper Eminem over his lyrics?

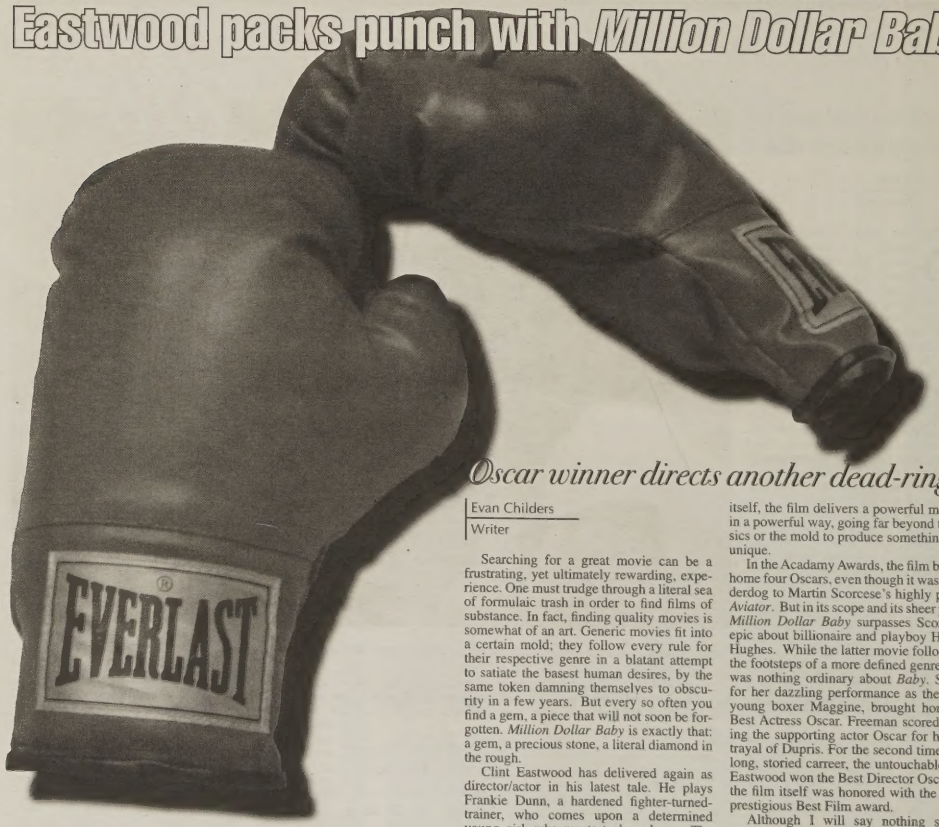
Yes, classroom studies of poetry can be dry, but modern examples of it prove how provoking it can be. Just once this year, in honor of National Poetry Month, etch out a few minutes of your time to listen to the lyrics of your favorite musician or look up a poem on a subject that interests you. For a varied sample of both old, new, deep, and shallow poetry, look up former Poet Laureate Billy Collins's website poetry 180. Or, look up the lyrics of lesser-known artist Lisa Loeb who has some of the most poetic lyrics I've encountered in her song "Furious Rose." Take a listen while you're at it. Another option you could take is chilling out to Jason Mraz (my personal favorite--the voice I destined myself to marry) or Jack Johnson, whose growing popularity at this school has been difficult not to notice.

When John Donne wrote that "the pen is mightier than the sword," he could not have envisioned the world as it is today with its emphasis on snappy visuals (on television, on billboards, and through the internet) that provide us with our daily doses of realism. Nonetheless, that pen point of his lives on, carried through history from paper to 45mm records to cassette tapes to compact discs.

photozach hetrick

Christy Landrigan is a senior and works as the Surplus Editor for the Spartana. *The views and opinions expressed in this column do not necessarily represent those of* the Spartana *or of its staff.*

Eastwood packs punch with *Million Dollar Baby*



Oscar winner directs another dead-ringer

Evan Childers
Writer

Searching for a great movie can be a frustrating, yet ultimately rewarding, experience. One must trudge through a literal sea of formulaic trash in order to find films of substance. In fact, finding quality movies is somewhat of an art. Generic movies fit into a certain mold; they follow every rule for their respective genre in a blatant attempt to satiate the basest human desires, by the same token damning themselves to obscurity in a few years. But every so often you find a gem, a piece that will not soon be forgotten. *Million Dollar Baby* is exactly that: a gem, a precious stone, a literal diamond in the rough.

Clint Eastwood has delivered again as director/actor in his latest tale. He plays Frankie Dunn, a hardened fighter-turned-trainer, who comes upon a determined young girl, who wants to be a boxer. The story focuses around the young boxer, Maggie Fitzgerald (played brilliantly by Hillary Swank) who becomes Dunn's protégé. Other wonderful performances are turned in by Morgan Freeman, who plays the wise, old Eddie Scrap-Iron Dupris and Jay Burachel as Danger Barch.

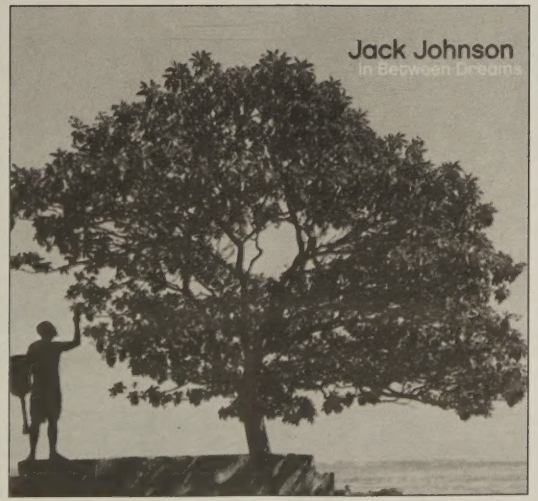
Beyond the undeniable virtues of the art itself, the film delivers a powerful message in a powerful way, going far beyond the basics or the mold to produce something truly unique.

In the Acadamy Awards, the film brought home four Oscars, even though it was an underdog to Martin Scorcese's highly praised *Aviator*. But in its scope and its sheer power, *Million Dollar Baby* surpasses Scorcese's epic about billionaire and playboy Howard Hughes. While the latter movie followed in the footsteps of a more defined genre, there was nothing ordinary about *Baby*. Swank, for her dazzling performance as the hardy young boxer Maggine, brought home the Best Actress Oscar. Freeman scored, earning the supporting actor Oscar for his portrayal of Dupris. For the second time in his long, storied carreer, the untouchable Clint Eastwood won the Best Director Oscar, and the film itself was honored with the highly prestigious Best Film award.

Although I will say nothing specific about the ending, I will tell you that nothing is held back. Some individuals might not be pleased with the approach Eastwood took to the ending of his film, but it is that lack of compromise, that no-holds-barred attitude that makes *Million Dollar Baby* such a powerful contender. Love it or hate it, the film is a powerful piece, an artistic treasure, and should be seen by one and all.

Artist of the Issue: Jack Johnson

Tyler Churchward
Designer



Jack Johnson's third album cover, *In Between Dreams*, is pictured above. The album was released on March 8, 2005.

March 1st could not have come soon enough, as I was eagerly anticipating the release of Jack Johnson's third album, *In Between Dreams*. Johnson follows the same winning formula of writing relaxing music that brings out the true Hawaiian in Jack Johnson as he did on *Brushfire Fairytales* and *On and On* - except this album sounds so much better. Born in Hawaii, Jack Johnson also had a career in both professional surfing and producing films on the horizon, but he put both in the backseat to focus on making music. Good choice, Jack.

In Between Dreams debuted at number three on the Billboard Top 200. Expect this album to go platinum, as both Brushfire Fairytales and On and On have been certified as platinum records. There is also the 1% FTP logo.

In Between Dreams is, without a doubt, Jack Johnson at his finest, and his best album yet. Don't get me wrong, *On and On* is great, and *Brushfire Fairytales* is amazing, but *In Between Dreams* blows both of them out of the water.

Johnson has a style of music all his own. His vocals often get confused with Dave Matthews, which is understandable, because Jack Johnson sounds warm and mellow. His guitar playing ability is impeccable, and he plays acoustic exclusively. Combine Johnson's placid vocals with his awesome guitar and his back-up band, and you have a CD that you can listen to for hour and not get sick of. Jack is often compared to John Mayer and Maroon 5, but take away everything except acoustic guitar and a bit of piano.

The album kicks off with "Better Together," which is a love song and is one of the best on the album. The lyrics are intelligent and catchy, and while the song has a slower tempo, it is one that makes your feet tap subconsciously. "Never Know" is also a slow-paced song, but it is great nonetheless, another one of my favorites.

"Banana Pancakes" is the album's first up-beat song and while the guitar is simple, Johnson makes up for it with witty, creative lyrics.

"Good People" is another faster-paced song in which Johnson questions society's cruelty and wonders where the good people went. "No Other Way" is a depressing love song, but Johnson's singing is incredibly meaningful and deep.

"Sitting Waiting Wishing" was the first single released from *In Between Dreams*, and while it is a very good song, it is definitely not the best, or even top three. However, the video for this song is very, very well done. This is a cliché love song about the crush that every person has in his or her life.

"Staple It Together" is a good song, but "Situations" is mediocre at best and barely over a minute long. "Crying Shame" is my personal favorite song on the album that preaches peace, not violence.

"If I Could" and "Breakdown" run together, but are both very well written songs. Half of "Belle" is sung is French, and "Do You Remember" and "Constellations" run together just like tracks ten and eleven, and are two of my least favorite songs.

Overall, the album offers relaxing music and is perfect for listening to during winter months and summer days alike. Johnston really captures the atmosphere of the beach, the tranquil ocean waves, and the feeling of falling in and out of love.

Jack Johnson's third album is by far his best work yet, and I can only hope for more with his next release. If you want just a taste of Jack, listen to "Crying Shame", "Better Together", or "Banana Pancakes." Let's just hope it doesn't take him as long to make his fourth album.

the charts

as of 4.19.2005

1	50 Cent	*The Massacre*
2	Faith Evans	*The First Lady*
3	Beck	*Guero*
4	Various Artists	*Now 18*
5	112	*Pleasure & Pain*
6	Will Smith	*Lost and Found*
7	Green Day	*American Idiot*
8	Beanie Sigel	*The B. Coming*
9	Lisa Marie Presley	*Now What*
10	Jack Johnson	*In Between Dreams*
11	The Killers	*Hot Fuss*
12	Donnie McClurkin	*Psalms, Hymns, & Spiritual Songs*
13	Frankie J	*The One*
14	Larry the Cable Guy	*The Right to Bare Arms*
15	Gwen Stefani	*Love. Angel. Music. Baby.*
16	Ciara	*Goodies*
17	Kelly Clarkson	*Breakaway*
18	Joss Stone	*Mind Body & Soul*
19	The Game	*The Documentary*
20	John Legend	*Get Lifted*

Out Of The Spotlight

Two normal students receive undeserved media attention

Evan Childers
Writer

Pearly Smith* is a secret agent in an undisclosed location, operating under the highest governmental authority. His life is exciting, thrilling, and would make a perfect story.

Unfortunately, this article isn't about Pearly, or anyone else newsworthy. I'm tired of all that. I'm tired of newsworthy people getting all the news; it just isn't fair. In a society that demands equality, isn't the media leaving something out?

Since that question was rhetorical, and you have no way to respond to it, I'll answer it for you: society is leaving out boring, slightly uninteresting people, places, and things. They're leaving out stories that aren't "relevant," stories that people "won't want to read." Well this reporter refuses to let that slide anymore. There are hundreds of people, events, and items that deserve to be in print, but that somehow miss out on the front pages. It stops here.

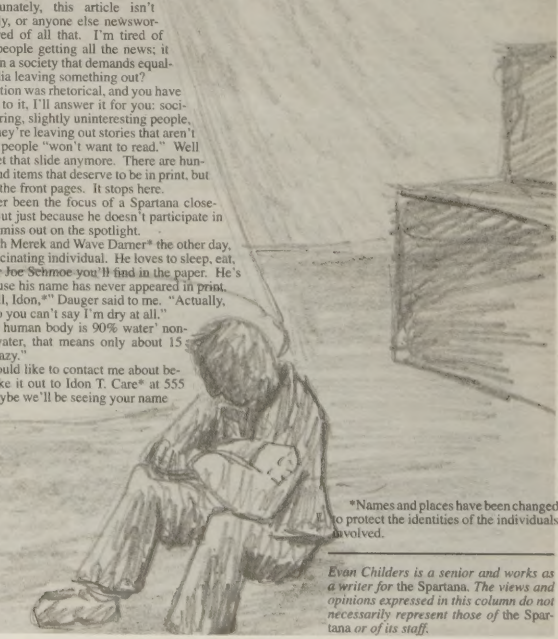
Merek Dauger* has never been the focus of a Spartana close-up, expose, or photograph. But just because he doesn't participate in sports doesn't mean he should miss out on the spotlight.

I sat down and had coffee with Merek and Wave Darner* the other day, and it turns out that Merek is a fascinating individual. He loves to sleep, eat, and watch television like any other Joe Schmoe you'll find in the paper. He's not a dry, uninteresting person because his name has never appeared in print.

"I'm not actually a dry person at all, Idon,*" Dauger said to me. "Actually, the human body is about 90% water, so you can't say I'm dry at all."

"I don't know about that whole 'the human body is 90% water' nonsense," Darner replied. "If I'm 90% water, that means only about 15 pounds of me isn't water, and that's just crazy."

If you've never been in a story and would like to contact me about being in one, write a letter to me. Make it out to Idon T. Care* at 555 Goodluckwiththat Lane.* Maybe we'll be seeing your name in print soon.



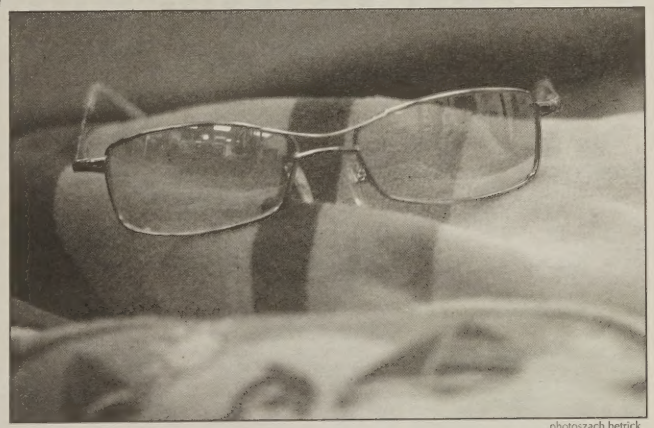
*Names and places have been changed to protect the identities of the individuals involved.

Evan Childers is a senior and works as a writer for the Spartana. *The views and opinions expressed in this column do not necessarily represent those of* the Spartana *or of its staff.*

Springing for some extra spending cash

Students go on scavenger hunt for summer jobs, decide upon working at pools, restaurants, and local businesses

Christy Landrigan
Surplus Editor



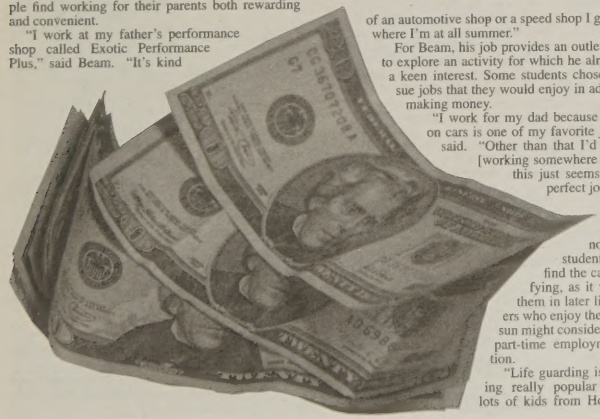
photoszach hetrick

Days at the beach are paired with days at hourly wage-earning jobs for some teens.

While attempting to focus on the remaining weeks of school, students are also gearing up for summer. Vacations, cruises, college visits, hanging by the pool, and other activities are on the to-do lists of most teens, but the reality that most of these activities require some spending cash hits home. Jobs are a staple of making it through the summer for some, and the flexible hours that part-time jobs offer are often prime cures for a penniless student. Others use the summer months to acquire money for future use.

Commonly, students from this school, like Tony Beam (11), find jobs close to home—literally. This affluent part of Allen County houses many business owners, and sons and daughters of these businesspeople find working for their parents both rewarding and convenient.

"I work at my father's performance shop called Exotic Performance Plus," said Beam. "It's kind of an automotive shop or a speed shop I guess. It's where I'm at all summer."



For Beam, his job provides an outlet for him to explore an activity for which he already has a keen interest. Some students chose to pursue jobs that they would enjoy in addition to making money.

"I work for my dad because working on cars is one of my favorite jobs," he said. "Other than that I'd consider [working somewhere else] but this just seems like the perfect job."

Perfect job or not, some students simply find the cash gratifying, as it will help them in later life. Others who enjoy the summer sun might consider another part-time employment option.

"Life guarding is becoming really popular because lots of kids from Homestead are getting jobs at Chestnut, Summit, and Avon," said Kelsey Mrowczynski (10).

True to her word, Mrowczynski joins a long list of high school students to get paid for watching out for swimmers. Already working at the Summit Natatorium, she has gained experience there. She came upon her current job at school during Physical Education class, which is required by the state of Indiana.

"During the swim lessons for gym class, they had a posting for life guarding classes--so that's how it all started," she said.

Because she is already employed, Mrowczynski has already established her spending habits. When her paycheck comes, she knows where it will go.

"Straight to the bank," she said.

Saving for future expenses is her choice, but she says she uses her check for spending money, too.

"I save my money for future reasons like college or a car," said Mrowczynski. "Occasional paychecks I'll take out but most if it goes into the bank.

Since she has a car and college to pay for, she focuses mostly on acquiring as much money as she can. "Rarely," she says, does she spend her earnings on frivolity or entertainment. Another perk other than the car and education for which her wage will pay: her parents approve.

"I guess my parents enjoy it since I'll be out all summer," she said.

café

Low-Fat Chicken Noodle Soup

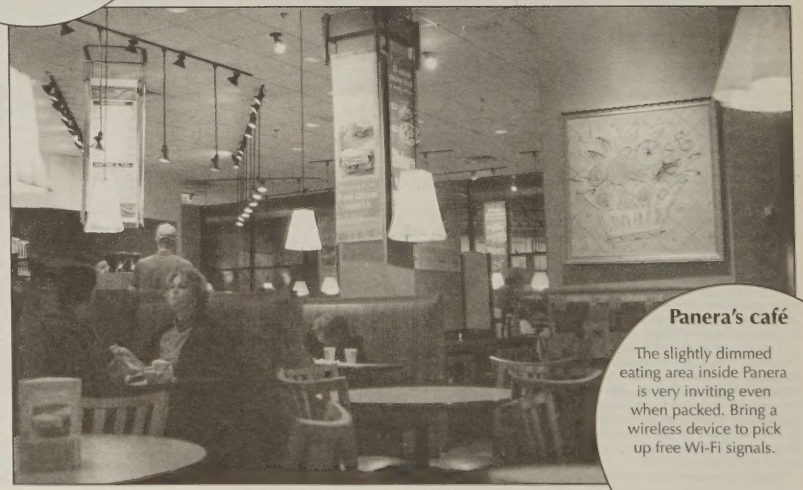
Home-style egg noodles, diced carrot and chunks of chicken simmered in a lightly herbed chicken broth. Tastes nothing like a low-fat soup and is a perfect snack while shopping at Jefferson Pointe.

sauce, lettuce, onions and tomatoes between two pieces of Ciabatta bread fill out my personal favorite Panera sandwich, the Pepperblue Steak.

Without question the best part of a Panera visit is the bowl of soup. With ten different choices, you would have to dislike soup to miss out. The Baked Potato Soup, served Monday, Wednesday, and Saturday is thick, creamy, and, well, potatoey. For a healthy, body warming snack, try a bowl of Low-Fat Chicken Noodle Soup. French Onion Soup is served daily, and is my bag. Prepared fresh, soggy croutons are a thing of the past. All soups are served with piece of sourdough bread or in a bread bowl upon request.

The perfect compliment to a sandwich or a bowl of soup is a fresh Panera salad. For the carb counter, the Caesar salad has only 15 net carbs. The Asian Sesame Chicken Salad and Bistro Steak Salad are much more tasty and more fattening. But after all, who's watching their weight? Don't worry though, the most unhealthy food at Panera doesn't fit into the McDonald's or Burger King classification.

For a true Panera experience, splurge on the "You Pick Two", which is any combination of two from the soup, sandwich and salad menus. A fountain Dr. Pepper completes my combination of a Pepperblue Steak with a bowl of French Onion Soup for $8.10. Trust me, it's worth it.



Panera's café

The slightly dimmed eating area inside Panera is very inviting even when packed. Bring a wireless device to pick up free Wi-Fi signals.

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Almost Heaven, West Virginia

Katie Corson
Writer

While many spent their Spring Break somewhere warm or tropical, the Saint Elizabeth Seton youth group traveled to Pendelton County, West Virginia, to build houses for Habitat for Humanity.

This is the thirteenth consecutive year that the youth group has made the 13-hour drive to West Virginia. During the week, students take part in numerous different projects.

"I helped frame a house, put up siding, build a deck, and put up dry wall," Matt Kartholl (12) said.

Many students feel that the hard work is worth it though.

"It's definitely not Key West, but you get a sense of accomplishment for really doing something," Chris Reed (11) said. "Plus it's a good excuse to work with power tools."

Even though students spent the majority of the work building new homes, some also helped to locals with basic up-keep work.

"Some houses already has residents, and just needed work done in certain areas. Some places there was just the frame of the house, and that was it," Brian Quigley ('04) said. "One house was almost complete, we just had to finish it; put in carpet and that kind of thing."

While in West Virginia, the group staying in a community center called 'Almost Heaven'. Over the week students got a chance to get to know other members of the youth group better.

"The whole group was really close. We became like a family there, and that carries over to when we came home," Quigley said.

The students also really enjoyed spending time with and getting to know the local members of the community, especially those who would be living in the houses they were building.

"The home owners faces were amazing. They were so appreciative," Quigley said.

The students found more than one way to give back to the community though. Before leaving, the church had asked members of the congregation to bring in canned goods they could take with them and donate to a food pantry.

"We collected so much food that we completely filled one food pantry. We ended up taking the rest of the canned goods to another pantry nearby," Melissa Connelly (11) said.

They also sponsored a spaghetti dinner for the locals at the community center.

"We put on a talent show a the retirement home there," Connelly said. "That was a lot of fun. My friend and I sang a song, while my cousin and another friend acted it out. By the end, we were all laughing so hard that it was difficult to sing."

The group did more than just build houses though. During their free time they were able to do some activities specific to West Virginia.

"We climbed up a nearby mountain named Seneka Rock, and had mass," Connelly said. "It was so beautiful. While we were celebrating the mass, you could look over to your side and watch the sun set over the mountains."

The surrounding mountains provided a difficult but worthwhile challenge for those who choose to make the climb.

» Chris Reed (11) uses a circular saw in West Virginia.

"Climbing the mountain was definitely difficult, but it was worth it," Reed said. "I called a friend from 3800 feet; that was cool."

For some, the mountain climb provided a experience for personal or spiritual growth.

"I'm terrified of heights, but on the mountain is a really narrow look out point," Quigley said. "I was able to over come my fear and walk out there. It was one of the most beautiful pictures I've ever seen."

So even though the students spent their time working instead of sun bathing, they all felt it was a great trip.

"It was work, but it was fun," Connelly said. "It wasn't like we were slaving away; we were having a good time. The people there make it worth it."

Many students have already made plans to return again next year.

"I'm definitely looking forward to going again next year," Reed said. "I'm going to keep going after I graduate, and for as long as I can."

A Night in Paris

2005 prom preview

Christy Landrigan
Surplus Editor

Rumors about prom 2005 have been floating throughout the school. The rumors have been nothing short of amazing. Prom 2005 is expected to be something elegant and beautiful, like Homestead has never seen. This prom will be one for the history books.

To be held at Homestead on Saturday, May 21, prom will be a night designed to fit the theme "A Night In Paris" and is planned to be a spectacle like none our school has seen before. Collaborating with other school organizations and clubs, Student Government's Prom Committee has designed the evening around the central French theme by employing the help of French Club.

Under the leadership of Anna Menze (11), the committee has worked since autumn to complete plans for the dance.

"In November we started planning so that all the big things can be worked out in advance so that we could focus on the important details when prom gets closer," Menze said.

Where Prom should be held was a major issue that was taken care of early in the planning process. Traditionally, the location has rotated between a rented facility and Homestead's auxiliary gymnasium. Past dances have been held at the Scottish Rite Center downtown and at the Memorial Colesium. Because prom was held at Homestead last year, most students expected it to be held in an outside facility, but the committee decided to hold Prom at school once again this year because of cost-consciousness.

"We decided to have it at Homestead so we could spend more money towards decorations and also so that we could have the entire week before prom to decorate because if we rent a facility we only have the day prior to decorate," Menze said.

Like last year, the gymnasium will be decorated to conceal its daily purpose.

"The gym will be completely concealed by black drapery, and it won't feel like a gym at all," said Menze.

Following this decision, the focus shifted to theme selection.

"This year our committee wanted to make a theme so that it would be memorable and recognizable," said Menze. "We also wanted to make favors that would be more practical."

Although practicality plays a large role in the Prom Committee's decisions, the committee nonetheless has prepared a night of extravagance. They considered multiple theme ideas before making their decision.

"A group of juniors visited A-Party-Apart where we looked through their photo albums of numerous themes and ideas," said Menze. We initially thought about doing several countries as our theme but then decided to make the gymnasium flow, we should choose only one."

Ultimately, the committee decided upon the theme of "A Night in Paris". They are also in the process of collaborating with French Club to make the theme more authentic.

"French Club helped us to incorporate small details of French culture that we would not have known without their help.," said Menze. "We're still working on those details, but things like chalkboards with French menus, regional French foods, and additional French culture."

Wishing to keep the plans a surprise for attendees, Menze was reluctant to share all of their plans; however, her enthusiasm for the theme is evident.

"When you walk in, you'll walk over a bridge," said Menze. "Underneath the bridge will be goldfish, live plants, and greenery. As you walk down the stairway, you'll have your picture taken by Prestige, and you'll receive a complementary 5x7 picture the Friday after Prom as your favor. The entire gym floor, with the exception of the dance floor, will be covered with artificial turf to give the feel of a French park."

A centerpiece of French culture has not been neglected in the committee's plans.

"The stage will be surrounded by trees and topiaries and on the stage, there will be a 14-foot lit Eiffel Tower," said Menze.

The Eiffel Tower replica is set to begin construction this week, as it is a complicated piece of architecture.

In addition to Student Government's preparation for prom, individual students must plan ahead. The most important factor to consider is tuxedo rental or dress alterations. Advice from tailors and rental stores runs parallel: take care of it now.

"[Students should rent tuxes] as soon as possible. It's such a busy time that you run the risk of not getting the style you want otherwise," said Cathy Schueler of Andrew Davis Menswear.

Popular styles for tuxes remain classic in appearance with pops of color to liven up the look.

"There is a lot of color in vests and ties and it's still pretty much black tuxedos but the emphasis is on color accessories."

Dress alterations can be a time-consuming process, so early planning can be beneficial.

"Two weeks notice is always good, but we're never going to have a young lady miss her prom," said David Heltzel from Despos Tailoring at Jefferson Pointe Mall, where a dress alteration runs "about $10-$14 per layer."

So far, Heltzel said he has seen a trend in dresses.

"Strapless seems to be the thing and spring colors like light pinks, light greens," he said. "We also had a pastel purple."

Tracey Hackett (12) bought her dress last Monday, but her dress does not fit the stereotype of prom dresses.

"It's strapless and black with lots of sparkles," she said.

Hackett, who also works at Biaggi's Ristorante Italiano, recommended making dinner plans well before prom.

"We're getting a lot of reservations, but we take reservations up to the same day," said Hackett. "For a large party it's better to do it a month in advance."

If members of your party have specific dietary restrictions or preferences, she says that Biaggi's can accommodate them.

"We do have meals that are purely pasta," said Hackett. "We also have a low carb menu so the Atkins diet can also be accommodated."

"The girls don't usually tend to eat too much," said Trisha Valentic. "When I had my brother come in I had him bring about $75 for two people."

Eddie Merlot's can also accommodate vegetarians if you call ahead of time.

"If you're vegetarian, you have to call 24 hours ahead of time so we can let our chef know that he'll need to prepare a vegetarian dish," said Valentic.

This year our committee wanted to

so that it would be memorable and

-Anna M

Dresses

Von Maur

popular places to get your prom dress

LS Ayres *Cache* *eBay* *Nordstrom*

Junior members of the Student Government prom committee, (left to right Anna Menze, Brandon Landes, Ashley Rohlfing, Eric Desseau, Derek Thieme, Ian McCormick, and Chris Miller) are pictured here working on posters and prom court ballots. The committee met at Menze's home on Sunday to tie up loose ends for prom. The committee began planning for the May prom in November.

Prom 2005 *"A Night in Paris"*

8 pm - 12 pm *Saturday, May 21st*

Auxiliary Gym *Refreshments to be served*

$40 per junior couple *Seniors are free*

o make a theme

l recognizable.

Menze (11)

Dinner *popular places to go before prom to dinner*

Cork and Cleaver *Casa Ristorante* *Biaggi's*

Takaoka *Eddie Merlo's* *Catablu*

The Pepperblue Steak Sandwich

Tender, slow-roasted steak filets with bold roasted red pepper sauce, nestled with lettuce, tomatoes and onions between two slices of freshly toasted bread.

Crazy

Panera receives high marks for tasty soups, salads, sandwiches and style

Josh Zurawski
Co-Editor in Chief

Don't be fooled.

Panera is known for its delicious breakfast of bagels and spread, but they also serve a mean lunch and dinner in the other half of the restaurant.

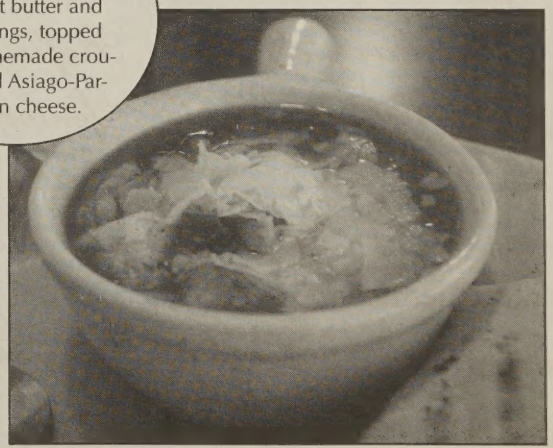
The chic, modern looking interior is welcoming and masks the massive café that is full nearly every lunch and dinner. Even when the place is packed, it never feels crowded.

[If you are a nerd like me and you enjoy soups, salads, sandwiches, and a variety of beverages, Panera should be your hang out. The place is a giant Wi-Fi hotspot, so bring your laptop or Pocket PC and enjoy browsing the web for free while eating.]

Panera is a quasi-fast foot restaurant. You order at a cash register, wait in line while they freshly prepare your meal, and then seat yourself. I say quasi because they do prepare your food as you order it at Panera, and none of the food that they prepare is greasy or poorly prepared.

The menu consists of health-conscious soups, salads, and sandwiches. All sandwiches are under six dollars and can be prepared hot or cold. There is also a sandwich for all levels of bravery, starting with the classic PB&J and ending with the tantalizing Frontega Chicken Panini, with fourteen other sandwiches in between.

The sandwiches are a step up from Subway because the chicken and cold cuts are of higher quality, the bread is more fresh, and the toppings have more bite. And it really is prepared fresh. Tender steak filets with a bold red pepper

French Onion

Sliced onion sauteed in sweet butter and seasonings, topped with homemade croutons and Asiago-Parmesan cheese.